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WITH STODDART'S TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

PRINCE RANJITSINHJI

(From a Photo by R. H. LORD, *Cambridge).*

WITH

STODDART'S TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

BY PRINCE RANJITSINHJI.

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WITH A CHARACTER SKETCH OF THE AUTHOR AND NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS.

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PRINCE RANJITSINHJI:

A Character Sketch.

BY "ROVER."

PERHAPS the most astonishing of the innumerable attributes of the greatest batsman of his time is his overpowering modesty. Kumar Shri Ranjitsinhji is but twenty-six years of age; yet he has achieved greater fame than celebrities in more important spheres. After all, there is prejudice in politics and restriction in art; but to know Ranjitsinhji is to admire him, and every one who can dissociate a bat from a walking-stick knows his Ranjitsinhji. There is partisanship in cricket, but not even the keen and sometimes bitter rivalry engendered in the struggle for the County Cricket Championship, could banish from the mind the intense respect felt for the Indian Prince who has, within a brief space, climbed to a place which had taken W. G. Grace many long years' assiduous practice to reach.

See what Ranjitsinhji has accomplished. He went to Cambridge University an unknown man, and invited obscurity by joining Trinity, in which huge college his talents were slow of recognition. His "blue" for cricket was belated; but directly he associated himself with Sussex County, he had taken the first step on the path to glory. Ranjitsinhji made Sussex, and Sussex indirectly made Ranji. There was an inevitableness about his form that contrasted strikingly with the proverbial uncertainty of the game.

It was not only that Ranjitsinhji made runs; it was the style in which he made them. The craft of a Bismarck or a Chamberlain, the dexterity of a Cinquevalli, the strength of a swordsman—so well-directed was it—were all incorporated in his batting. He was a wizard of the bat, an artist in run-getting, a general in resource.

The history of his Jubilee book on Cricket has never before been published, and this is my excuse for a few words explanatory of its birth. Some months before the announcement was made that Ranjitsinhji was writing a standard work on Cricket, I received an invitation from Messrs. Blackwood to co-operate with the Indian Prince in the production of a book on the game. I wrote to Ranji, and by

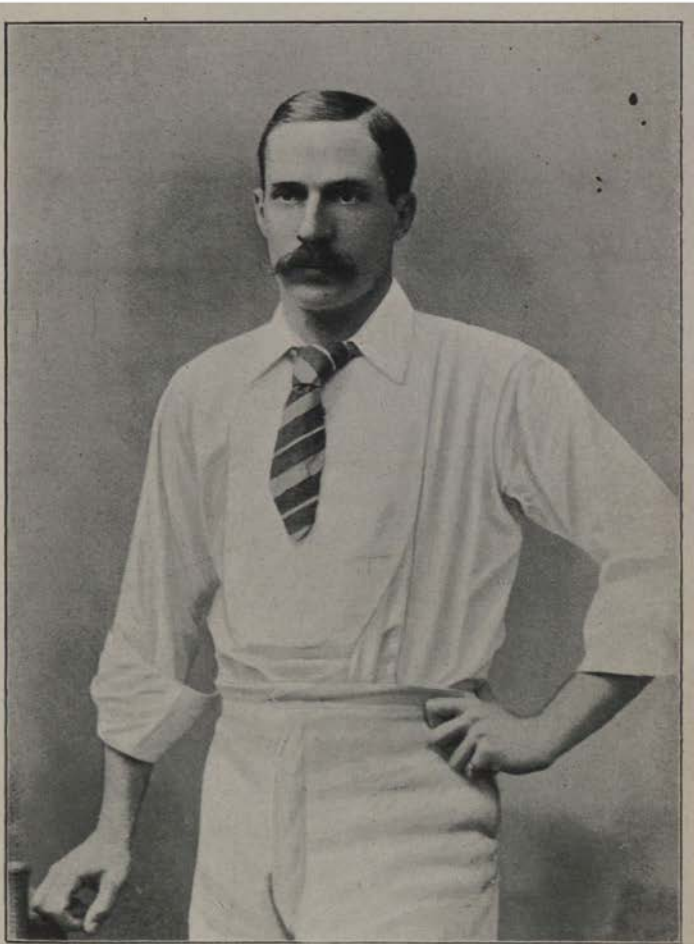

PHOTO BY] A. E. STODDART. [HAWKINS, BRIGHTON.

appointment called upon him at Cambridge, where he occupied cosy rooms over a baker's shop. His landlady guarded him from intruders with all the zealousness and affection of a mother.

At this period Ranjitsinhji was ill, and directly I arrived he showed me the manuscript of a book which he had begun for the innocent purpose of filling up time. It did not take me long to discover that there was no necessity for collaboration. To my astonishment I found the work of the highest class, even from a literary point of view. I told Ranjitsinhji that he required no help, and I assured him that he would be able to gain a great success with the volume when finished.

When the character of the impending volume leaked out, there were some sensational bids from several publishers, but eventually the Prince disposed of the book to Blackwood's, who certainly deserved a good deal of credit for their enterprise at the outset. The immense popularity achieved by Ranjitsinhji's great work is common knowledge. Press and public were unanimous in arriving at the conclusion that it surpassed anything of its kind ever attempted. Of course, much of the value of such a book is due to the circumstances that it is written by a proved expert, by a

genius humorously suspected to possess unnatural powers.

He himself has often remarked to me how necessary it is for the first-class cricketer to secure regular exercise during the winter. This is one explanation of the adaptability of the University men to the great game. The body needs to be kept in an athletic state. Good health is indispensable to the good cricketer, and inseparable from good cricket.

Ranjitsinhji has always been a careful man and a conscientious cricketer. I have never known him to indulge in alcoholic drinks during the course of a match ; if he is thirsty, he drinks water. It has often been remarked by spectators of long innings by Ranjitsinhji that such results, from a man of obviously slight physique, are little less than miraculous. But though Ranji is light and slim, he is strong and wiry. His limbs are supple, and his knowledge of the requisite strength for certain strokes so complete, that there is no waste of energy.

Ranjitsinhji in this respect differs from the general run of great cricketers. The *suaviter in modo* is with the Indian a far more important consideration than the *fortiter in re.* A large percentage of his runs accrue from the slightest touches,

but these touches are not common, and few can copy them. It is well said that the field cannot be placed on the leg side for Ranjitsinhji. In a flash he has altered his position, and with a graceful stroke has placed the ball where the fieldsman is not. At times he appears to be made of india-rubber. The ball flows from his bat as water rushes down a hill.

There is no cricketer who deflects the ball with equal grace and precision. To the fraction of a second the stroke is clearly timed. He sees the ball all the way, whereas other cricketers are forced to be guided by instinct and the natural law of angles, which, however, ceases to be natural and orthodox when the wickets are crumbling or sticky.

This is one reason why Ranjitsinhji is especially pre-eminent on what are technically known as bowlers' pitches. He is conscious of everything. On good grounds less gifted men are not at so serious a disadvantage; but they lack the education, the resource, the judgment, and the power of divination of this great cricketer.

Ranjitsinhji claims that it was W. G. Grace who revolutionised batting from an accomplishment into a science. In the old days there were two kinds of batsmen—he who played a back game, an

he who adopted a forward style. Ranji argues that a batsman must be able to adapt himself to any method of defence and attack.

In speaking of Grace, Ranji says: "He founded the modern theory of batting by making forward and back play of equal importance, relying not entirely on the one, nor on the other, but upon both. He made his execution equal his invention. All of us now have the instrument, but we lack his execution. It is not that we do not know, but that we cannot perform. Before 'W. G,' batsmen did not know what could be made of batting. He turned its many narrow, straight channels into one great winding river."

Comparison between W. G. Grace and Kumar Shri Ranjitsinhji is as inevitable as that between W. S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan and their successors. Some of us are inclined to forget the great days of the Champion, and therefore favour the Indian. But comparison is distinctly odious. In the first place, Grace is a batsman of quite a different style; in the second place he invented a style upon which Ranjitsinhji improved. Ranji did not, like Grace, start at the beginning. A good deal of arduous preliminaries were rendered easy for him. Above all, since success depends

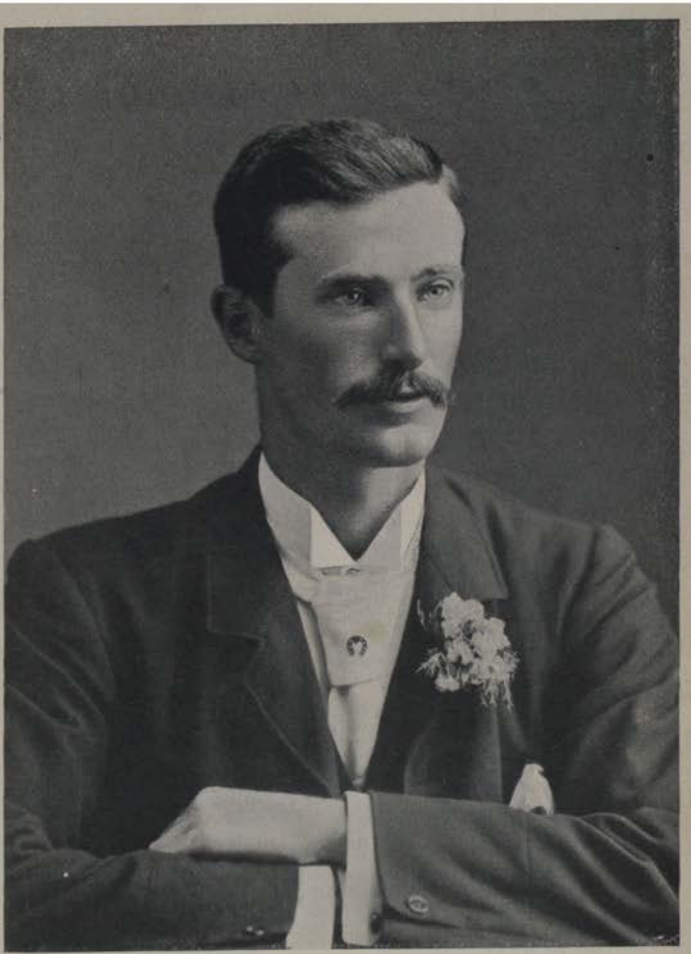

PHOTO BY] C. McLEOD. [MENDELSSOHN, MELBOURNE.

upon the nature of the bowling, it should be remembered that Grace, at his best, lived in an age which Ranjitsinhji can only read about. Bowling in the past may have been better, or it may have been worse, than that now in vogue; it is purely a matter of opinion. But it is indisputable that it was different.

Ranjitsinhji makes most of his runs behind or square with the wicket. He is not above the ordinary full-shouldered drive—but this is purely a stroke of convenience. There are few balls that he cannot master. His is quite a personal art. He contravenes the most famous traditions of the style of batting: and this it is that so sorely vexes the brains of the bowlers. Mental powers are made to compensate for modesty of physique. He juggles with the ball.

To the majority of people the title of Ranjitsinhji is not a little confusing. When the Prince was in the youth of his cricket career, it was quite a regular practice on the part of the cricket card printer to inscribe "Mr. K. S. Ranjitsinhji" "or K. S. Ranjitsinhji, Esq." As a matter of fact the words "Kumar Shri" are an elaboration of "K. S.," meaning prince. Ranji himself has been much amused by such misrepresentations, but that

which amuses him even more is the old story that when he went up to Cambridge, undergraduates at Trinity called an extraordinary meeting and seriously passed a resolution that the new-comer should be more familiarly called "Smith." This is not the true origin of "Smith." It was the *Star*, the London evening paper, which jocularly announced that, in deference to a "round robin" addressed by the compositors, they had decided to re-christen Ranjitsinhji "Smith"!

Ranjitsinhji gave me the history of his birth very simply. His father is His Highness Sir Nibhaji Ranmalgi, K.C.S.I., Jám of Navanagar in Kathiawar, West of India. Navanagar is in size and character equal to an English county, and possesses a population of some 300,000 people. Ranjitsinhji is a Jareja of the Rajput race, a Hindu nation.

He gained a rudimentary idea of cricket in the Raj-kumar College, in Kathiawar, and it should be satisfactory to those ultra-patriots in this country to know that Ranji's early cricket was taught him by English masters in India.

Ranji told me that the heat in his country is so intense that it is occasionally necessary to suspend play for a few hours in the middle of the day, but the climate, on the whole, is well suited to the

game. It is necessary to protect the turf with canvas screens stretched above at the height of several feet, so as to ensure air and light, and shade it from the direct rays of the sun.

There is nothing very remarkable in Ranjitsinhji's early exploits. He was a little more than nineteen years of age when he came to England early in 1892. One remarkable fact, however, is that his association with cricket was somewhat accidental. He was on the college ground one day, and was invited to complete a side that was one man short. Ranji's immediate success goes to show that he was born for the game. The natural instinct was not to be baulked.

It was in 1893 that Ranjitsinhji received his "Blue"; but he really deserved it in his first year, when F. S. Jackson was captain. Stanley Jackson has often been blamed for overlooking the brilliant Indian; but so far from any ill-feeling existing between the famous pair of cricketers, Ranji assures me he has no greater friend, while "Jacko" thinks a little world of the old Trinity collegian.

Ranjitsinhji's reputation at 'Varsity was gained not merely by brilliant batting. It was the current opinion that a finer slip had never been seen at Cambridge. Many of those qualities which serve Ranji so well in the batting crease have helped to

make him the finest fieldsman in the country. Who will forget the brilliant piece of work that ran out Frank Iredale in the famous test match at the Oval, and was the means to the end of a glorious triumph for the Mother Country over Australia?

Ranji is seldom seen at slip in these days; but whether at point (his regular position), or mid-off, his quickness and dash are equally prominent. The small boys at Hove swear by Prince Ranjitsinhji. To them there has never been a cricketer half so great, and they are quite sure that his equal will never be seen. The undiscriminating applause that greets any action of Ranjitsinhji on the Sussex ground suggests a claque! But I have reason to know that the Prince has frequently been annoyed and irritated by such all-round praise, though he wisely says nothing.

There are a good many characteristics about Ranjitsinhji. One of these is the constant fluttering of his shirt in the breeze. Ranji disports a garment of some soft Indian texture, and would be recognised by this if by no other sign. He is very lithe, full of spirits and animation. He could no more think of standing still than could a young kitten. His interest in the game is unbounded, and, unlike the vast majority of first-class cricketers, he is

equally happy when fielding as when batting. Indeed, Ranji has told me that of the two he prefers fielding. In his book he gives some very valuable advice to young players, and says in effect, that if a boy shirks his work in the field he can never become a great cricketer. .

Ranjitsinhji's enthusiasm in the great game found another outlet in bowling. No better indication of his versatility can be afforded than by his performance in his first appearance for Sussex County. The opposition consisted of the M.C.C. and Ground, and happily enough W. G. Grace figured on its side. This match will ever be remarkable for a marvellous display of cricket.

Going in first, the M.C.C. and Ground made 293 ; and to this Sussex replied with 219, Ranjitsinhji carrying his bat for 77. At the second attempt the premier club totalled 330, Grace's contribution being 103. He was eventually caught by Ranjitsinhji, whose analysis in such an innings, six for 109, was extremely creditable. Thus Sussex were left with 405 to make for victory, and the match looked as good as over.

When Ranji went in, Sussex had made a dreadful start ; but so magnificent was the Indian's batting, that matters became altogether different, and in the

end Sussex lost by only 19 runs. Ranjitsinhji made 150 before being clean bowled by Grace. His batting was a piece of work that will not be forgotten by those who had the good fortune to witness it. It was made against the combined attack of such artists in the use of the ball as J. T. Hearne, F. Martin, C. Heseltine, W. G. Grace, A. Hearne, and W. Flowers; and though later Ranjitsinhji accomplished much more brilliant efforts, that score remains in my mind as one of his greatest innings.

It need scarcely be said that Ranjitsinhji headed the Sussex batting averages in this his first season with the seaside club. He played in all thirty-eight innings, and scored 1,766 runs, so that his figures worked out at 50·16. As demonstrating his clear superiority, I may add that the next man on the list, George Brann, could only claim 29·25 as his average for thirty-one innings.

Ranjitsinhji's first inter-'Varsity match was not a great success, for he made but 9 and 0; but the game will not fade from his memory, for it was distinguished by the sensational wide-bowling of C. M. Wells which helped Cambridge to victory. Although he failed in this game, Ranjitsinhji had the satisfaction of emerging third in the batting averages to F. S. Jackson and J. Douglas. He participated in no

other inter-'Varsity battles, but playing occasionally secured an average of 32 in the ordinary English averages; and only Brockwell, L. C. Docker, G. J. Mordaunt, Rev. W. Rashleigh, J. E. Hill, Abel, and H. T. Hewett were above the Indian Prince.

In 1895, Ranjitsinhji had L. H. Gwynn (the Irish footballer), A. C. MacLaren, and W. G. Grace slightly above him; but the following season he completely turned the tables. This was Ranji's great year. In the first place, he beat all existing records by scoring 2,780 runs—the previous best having been Grace's 2,739 in 1871—and in the second place, he added his name to the select list of batsmen who had compiled separate centuries in the same match. His average for the season was 57·44, and his centuries—eight in all!—ranged from 171 not out against Oxford University, 165 against Lancashire, 154 not out for England against Australia, down to 100 and 125 against Yorkshire.

In this season of 1896 Ranjitsinhji batted altogether fifty-five times, and his best scores, apart from his eight centuries, were 74 against the M.C.C. and Ground, 79 against the Australians, 64 against Lancashire, 69 and 73 against Kent, 47 and 51 not out for the Gentlemen against the Players, 54 against

Gloucestershire, 54 against Somerset, and 74 against the Australians. Remarkably enough, Ranji has never been able to show his best form against Surrey, either at Brighton or at the Oval.

Last year, Ranjitsinhji early opened with one of the most marvellous displays ever seen, when he scored 260 against the M.C.C. and Ground, an innings not the less curious because it was made for the losing side, which showed what a bad team Sussex really were. Among the bowlers arrayed against him were J. T. Hearne, F. Martin, G. Davidson, and W. Chatterton; yet Ranji managed to keep up the marvellous average of 60 an hour! He was batting a little over four hours. In this season, however, Ranji yielded in the matter of aggregate to Robert Abel (1,940 for 48 innings to 2,099 for 50 innings), and in average to F. G. J. Ford, N. F. Druce, A. C. MacLaren, and to W. G. Quaife, not one of whom, however, batted nearly so many times as the Indian. Ranjitsinhji, of course, again headed his county averages, playing most innings and scoring most runs.

The great Indian cricketer has remarked to me that the best bowling he likes to play is slightly above medium-paced, say of the style of J. T. Hearne. Ordinary observers would say that Ranji could have

no great preference, since he scores with equal facility from most trundlers. Certainly, there is a striking unanimity among bowlers as to the name of the batsman whom they most enjoy dismissing from the wickets.

This year there is no Ranjitsinhji with us. We feel as if we had lost something which cannot be replaced. We in the cricket world were happy enough in the old days—the ante-Ranji days—but we have been educated to higher things. I fear that future cricket seasons will hardly have the same success unless Ranjitsinhji is among us, scoring as freely and resourcefully as ever.

During the tour in Australia, Ranjitsinhji not only sustained his reputation, but created a Ranjitsinhji fever—there were Ranjitsinhji matches, Ranjitsinhji railway bar sandwiches, Ranjitsinhji hair restorers. Afterwards the great cricketer returned to his peaceful home, whither he had been summoned on important business. Here he was at once presented with an enthusiastic address to this effect: "Our joy knew no bounds when we heard that a Rajput prince, Ranjitsinhji by name, beat all previous records in a game which is in a special sense an English game. You have raised India in the esteem of the English people, and made

Indians love the noble race that inhabits the British Isles."

It is generally believed in England that Ranji will return in full time for the 1899 cricket season, but there are some who fear that he may be lost to us. There is an idea that he will presently be compelled to grace a throne; and the man in the street —the English street—thinks that sovereignty will prove a strong argument against renewal of cricket associations. But I know Ranjitsinhji better than this. He could not live without his beloved cricket: it is part of his existence.

A characteristic telegram was received from the Indian Prince at Hove, during the course of the Sussex and Gloucestershire match last Whit-Monday. Ranji wished Sussex well, and intimated that he was with them in spirit. The county professionals owe a good deal to the Cantab, who has frequently given them presents and prizes. Killick was once the recipient of a gold watch and chain; and it may not be generally known that, on the occasion of the marriage of Tom Richardson, Ranjitsinhji's gift was an Indian tea and coffee service.

Many stories have been told about Ranjitsinhji, and the majority of them are stories in the col-

loquial sense only! I know for a fact, however, that once while touring with Cambridge Cassandra Cricket Club, during a long vacation, a member of an opposing side enquired of some of the visitors if "that dark chap could speak English?" They, speedily foreseeing possibilities, replied seriously that he knew a few words, such as "Yes" and "No" and "How's that?"

The consequence was, that when the unconscious Ranji went to the wickets, he, to his great astonishment, heard some lively criticisms of his batting. He made a characteristically huge score, and every now and again someone of the fielding side would ejaculate, "Here, isn't it time this heathen went out?" Once, when the ball struck Ranji in the chest and doubled him up, the fielding captain audibly hoped that it would "Knock some of the steam out of the beggar!" At the subsequent luncheon, when Ranjitsinhji rose to toast genially the home side, several faces were seen to change colour.

A joke once made concerning Ranjitsinhji received wide currency. It was to the effect that, whenever his father heard of a century by his son, he ordered three slaves to be sacrificed. One easily scented a University atmosphere about this rumour. Anyhow, if slaves were sacrificed at the rate specified,

the population of Navanagar must be growing beautifully less.

Ranjitsinhji is chiefly a cricketer, but there was a time when he attuned his athleticism to Association football. A severe blow on the knee, which kept him in a state of idleness for some time, is understood to have damped a good deal of his ardour for the winter game; and if he seeks a change nowadays it is in the direction of rackets, tennis, billiards, and shooting.

Ranjitsinhji is a little above the medium height. In most respects, especially as a sportsman, he is a thorough Englishman. With all due deference to the sensibilities of the small minority of out-and-out patriots, I, in common with the vast majority of English cricketers, look forward to seeing his famous lissom figure once again among a representative English eleven.

WITH STODDART'S TEAM IN AUSTRALIA.

CHAPTER I.

THE PERSONNEL OF THE TEAM.

THERE is nothing strange—I might almost say it is now eagerly expected on either side—that a team of cricketers should periodically visit England or Australia to test the merits of cricket of their respective countries. Thus it came to pass that for the second time in succession Andrew Ernest Stoddart was invited by the Melbourne Cricket Club and Trustees of the Sydney Cricket Ground to bring over a team of English players to play the usual number of matches, both against the principal colonies, with eleven a-side, and against odds in the up-country in Australia. It may not be out of place here to state that although it is never difficult to get up a team to visit this country, it is always a

delicate task for the captain to select a side which will give satisfaction to the community at Home. There are two main points that have to be considered when such a team is being got together: first and foremost, that such a team should be thoroughly representative, or as nearly so as possible; secondly, that the members of such a team, when embarking on a tour of this description, should know each other to an appreciable degree, and be able to live at all times in harmony. The English captain of the 1894 team showed great tact in selecting his team, and I have but little doubt that the success which attended his efforts and that of the side during the trip, both in the field and socially, was mainly owing to the excellent judgment he displayed in considering these points. In the selection of the team in 1897 he endeavoured to follow on the same lines as before. The yearly performances for their respective counties, and in other important matches, in which the players took part, gave a fairly adequate idea as to the abilities of the different players, so far as the first point—their representative character—was concerned. His own keen insight into the character of the different players, and their peculiarities of temperament, as found by himself in coming into contact year by year with them in various matches, helped him in no small degree to form a tolerably correct idea as regards the second point—the harmony among the players.

Stoddart completed his side about the second week in August, 1897, and the team, as finally constituted, after Captain Wynyard's enforced retirement, owing to his military duties, was as follows:—A. E. Stoddart, A. C. MacLaren, J. R. Mason, N. F. Druce, T. Richardson, T. Hayward, J. T. Hearne, J. Briggs, J. Board, W. Storer, E. Wainwright, George Hirst, and myself. Of these thirteen, four had previously visited the colonies, and nine were coming to Australia for the first time. The selection gave, as far as was possible to expect, universal satisfaction in the Old Country.

Stoddart, who captained the team, is, needless to say, the most popular captain that has ever visited the Australian shores, and the reason is not far to to seek. His own genial manners, frankness, and even temperament, have endeared him to the public of the Old as well as the New Country, and there is not a cricketer in England who is so deservedly popular for personal good qualities as Andrew Ernest Stoddart. There is but little doubt that there is no player who is so genuinely loved and admired in Australia as our captain. As a player he combines the qualities of a hitter with the skill of a scientific batsman. It would not be incorrect to state that he is, perhaps, the most under-rated hitter in England; and I think that it is a good deal because he combines great skill with method in his hitting, unlike most hitters of the Frank Sugg or Jessop

order. His forward style is, indeed, perfection ; his back-play is very forcible ; his driving when in tip-top form is worthy of the most accomplished batsman; and he has (when playing one of his great innings, with which he has so often delighted the public), no superior in brilliance. As a captain, he has a decided aversion to losing the toss. He has the confidence of his team, and his opponents fear him as one who knows all the moves of the game. Like all distinguished men in any sphere of life, he has his peculiarities and weaknesses. To briefly state some of them—he believes in early rising, slow toilet and late breakfast, and is a man who can enjoy a good dinner. He is fond of music ; has an excellent voice ; but, alas, only sings, and plays the banjo, for his own amusement in the early morn ; is a model of punctuality, and often finds it hard to put up with a certain member of the team when he turns up late.

N. F. Druce was the youngest member of the team. He is, perhaps, the most brilliant batsman playing in England at the present day. For variety of strokes and excellence of "on side" play he can be compared with the best players. His hitting is severe and crisp, and his stamina for making large scores, for one so young, is perfectly astonishing. He is one of the most rapid scorers in England. As a companion he is most pleasant and affable. His manners are very winning. Those who know him

PHOTO BY] A. C. MacLAREN. [FALK, MELBOURNE.

well call him "Chubbie"; the reason of this is not far to seek.

J. R. Mason is a year older than the late Cambridge captain, and is a player essentially of the "forward" style. As an elegant player he has not many rivals. His style is full of dash and brilliance, combined with soundness and safety. "Jack" Mason is indeed a favourite among all. He does not say much, but a merry twinkle in his eye gives the idea that he thinks much, and knows much. He has plenty of dry humour and wit. Indeed "Jack" is quite a study. Kent owes its success largely to him in the cricket-field. Like our captain, he is an excellent change bowler, and at times is successful against all kinds of batsmen. His long and supple reach enables him to be a most brilliant slip.

A. C. MacLaren, the holder of the first-class record of the world, has indeed no superior as a batsman on hard wickets. His strokes are full of vigour and variety, his off-driving, both high and low, and his treatment of short-pitched balls on the "on-side" is, indeed, a treat to witness. He is a batsman full of resource and nerve, and at a pinch can always be relied upon. As a fieldsman "in the country," especially in the manner of picking up, he is without a rival. The dexterity with which he picks up balls within an inch or two of the boundary with either hand, when going full tilt, is indeed little short of marvellous. As a bowler he is just as harmless as

he is dangerous with the bat, and with some luck might possibly have a chance in the up-country matches, as "Archie" thinks he is a much ill-used bowler. "Archie," as he is called by his friends, is, indeed, a most amusing and agreeable companion. He affords much amusement to us all by his queer sayings and witty remarks. He is always cheerful and full of "go." He imagines he is unlucky in everything, but "Archie," without his grumbling, as someone remarked the other day, would be like curry without chutney. He is fond of horses, and imagines he can ride, notwithstanding a slight mishap during the previous tour. In short, he is a thorough sportsman and a grand fellow.

Hayward, Wainwright, and Hirst, the three new professional players visiting this country, achieved great distinction in batting and bowling during the last season in England, having obtained over 1,000 runs and over 100 wickets each.

Hayward is essentially a stylist. His soundness is unquestionable, but he occasionally lacks patience, and is not unlike Druce in that respect. Hayward's bowling is full of resource, for he changes his pace with excellent judgment. On a wicket that helps the bowler he is indeed formidable. On one, however, that is perfect, he is apt to be a trifle short. "Tom" is an excellent fellow, and, although of a quiet disposition, is full of fun and merriment in his own particular

way. He is a general favourite among all classes in England.

Hirst and Wainwright are equally sound and able batsmen, Hirst going for hitting more than his fellow Yorkshireman. He bowls fast left-hand, and on a wicket that is at all crumbly or fiery is, indeed, very dangerous. Wainwright, on the other hand, revels in a slow wicket, affected by rain, and the way in which he makes the ball hop about on such a wicket is little short of marvellous.

A few words must be said on the greatest of medium-pace bowlers in England, "Jack" Hearne. The Middlesex crack bowler is a comparatively young man, and during the last few years has done more work both for his county and the M.C.C. than, perhaps, any other bowler in England. He has always been somewhere near the top of the English averages, with over a hundred wickets to his name, and one year, recently, he was absolutely at the head of affairs in bowling. His bowling is of fast-medium pace, combining great accuracy of length with any amount of off break. On good hard wickets he comes off the pitch very quicky, and on crumbly and sticky wickets—that is to say, on wickets that help the bowler—he is unquestionably the most deadly bowler in England, at the present day. He keeps on bowling for hours at a time without any fatigue, in fact, he revels in hard work. "Jack" is the most popular figure among the

professionals at Lord's, and rightly so. Apart from being a conscientious cricketer, he is a thorough gentleman in every sense, and his kindness and courtesy to all his comrades, and his frankness in all his dealings, make him always a welcome friend and guest anywhere.

"Jack" is a thorough sportsman all round; besides cricket, he is exceedingly fond of riding and shooting, in fact, he dabbles in all games, and generally manages to be proficient in them. He has visited Africa and India, both in the capacity of a player and a coach. At the latter place he has endeared himself to the Mahrajah of Patila by his cheerful and respectful manner, and his great ability as an all-round player. His stories about Indian experiences, in respect to tiger hunts, and pig sticking, and polo matches, are exceedingly amusing and interesting, and he adds a peculiar flavour to them by the excited manner in which he relates them.

Little Johnnie Briggs, though not now the batsman he was some years ago, is still a great bowler on certain wickets. Who does not know Johnnie Briggs with his funny ways and merry antics? Johnnie's fielding is still very clever at "cover," and, though lacking perhaps the fire and certainty of his early days, he is, nevertheless, a player to be reckoned with.

Storer and Board, the two wicket-keepers, both display great pluck and excellence in their own

department. To look at their hands is a sufficient proof that they have had stiff work and hard knocks during their career, and also one cannot be mistaken as to their being stumpers. Storer, outside his own particular branch, is a batsman of the very highest order, for, though lacking in style, he is terrible to his opponents in effect, hitting in most wonderful form, and "putting" in a way that reminds one of Walter Read in his best days. Storer is a batsman who knows no fear, and has no nerve. At a pinch, he is like Hirst, always ready to do his best, and, like Hirst, also, invariably succeeds.

Board's batting is more of a vigorous than of the high-class order; nevertheless, he has played many a useful and really good innings for his county. In character the two wicket-keepers differ materially. Board is amusing, cheerful, and easy to understand. Storer is reserved, thoughtful, but none the less pleasant, and is always civil and obliging to his comrades. In fact, he can be called a thoroughly good fellow, and, as a wicket-keeper, one of the fairest.

And now last, but not the least, comes "Tom" Richardson. Genial, good-hearted "Tom" is the most wonderful bowler of the present day, and is a right down good fellow. There is no more deservedly popular player than the Surrey crack in England. His bowling is alike deadly on good and bad wickets, and the best compliment that I can

pay him is to say that more runs are got off him from the edge of the bat, by good and bad batsmen alike, than are got in a similar manner from the attack of any three other bowlers during the season. He is the best of triers, and is never beaten, and his greatest efforts come when they are most wanted. Tom shares with Mason the privilege of being one of the two pillars, in more senses than one, on our side.

CHAPTER II.

DEPARTURE AND VOYAGE.

THE team sailed on the 17th September, on board the *Ormuz*, amid the good wishes of the large gathering that had assembled at Tilbury. The voyage to Naples was passed in a quiet and uneventful manner. The passage was exceedingly smooth, with the exception of one day in the treacherous Bay of Biscay, and by the time we arrived at the Italian port we all considered ourselves fairly on our sea legs. At Naples we amused ourselves by going on shore and seeing the various sights, both in the city and at the ruins of Pompeii.

From Naples to Port Said the passage was a smooth one, and the different members of the team thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I might mention here that I joined my comrades at Naples, having travelled by the overland route a week later. I met with much hand-shaking from all of them, and particularly from the skipper, who was much relieved and gratified to find me safe on board,

inasmuch as the knowledge of a certain amount of forgetfulness in my character made him anxious as to my being able to arrive on the appointed day. At Port Said we landed again, and amused ourselves by visiting the Egyptian bazaars and shops and the Arab quarter of the town, while some members of the team indulged in donkey-rides as well. It seemed pretty evident from the scene that met our eyes that we had left civilised Europe behind. Dusty streets, low houses with verandahs all round, the hawkers selling their goods, swarthy faces of all hues, proved that we were in Africa and not Europe. Another sight that struck everybody forcibly was the quick way in which the coaling was done by the Arabs. Port Said is considered to be almost unrivalled in this respect.

During the passage from Naples to Port Said a sports committee was formed for the amusement of the passengers in general. It arranged tournaments for both ladies and gentlemen in deck games, such as quoits, "bull board," and deck billiards, board and card games. Our skipper was elected to the committee to look after our interests, and the different members of the team made themselves familiar with the various games before entering for the tournaments. Wainwright soon became an expert at deck billiards, Stoddart was undoubtedly the champion at quoits, and Hirst and Briggs were both excellent performers at "bull board." In the

afternoon we invariably engaged in cricket practice. In the evenings the professional members of the team delighted the passengers on board by grouping themselves on deck, opposite the smoking-room, and singing glees and plantation songs. The evening entertainments, however, varied often. We had concerts one evening, dances another, and, thanks to the hospitality of the captain and officers of the ship, we often indulged in a stroll on the bridge, reserved for the captain and officers.

In the Red Sea the heat was intense and trying, and sleeping on deck was in general vogue. During the daytime in the Red Sea, particularly in the afternoons, the amateur photographers, who must have numbered thirty at least, took snap shots at the different passengers having their afternoon siestas, and the results of some of them were exceedingly amusing and interesting. Everything went on as smoothly as possible until we passed Aden. From here to Colombo, however, a heavy sea seemed to affect Storer, Hirst, Board, Wainwright, and myself in varying degrees.

Games and amusements kept us always entertained. The cricket practice on the deck was very good training for the eye and for the muscles used in actual cricket. The ball comes straight and true, but occasionally comes back, according to the roll of the ship. We had several pick-up matches, and those between the married and single, in which, by

the way, the cricket team did not take part, caused no slight amusement and merriment among the passengers. Three matches were played, in two of which the singles proved victorious. The last match, in which the married players were defeated by their younger and single opponents, caused a little annoyance to them for a day or two. Everybody, however, was delighted when we reached Colombo.

Colombo struck us at once as a charming spot, and everybody seemed eager to land there. It is one of the prettiest places man could wish to see. The trees are resplendent with tropical beauty and colour. Big palm, cocoanut, and date trees, intermingled with smaller trees of other kinds, and varied plants and flowers cover the plains and surrounding hills. Fragrant herbs and cinnamon groves are to be seen on every hand. The place is full of life and business. The hotels are pleasant and comfortable, and are fitted with all European comforts, and the ricksha riding is, indeed, a very pleasurable method of conveyance. The astonishing speed of the natives in carrying these vehicles, and the length of time they keep up their quick run, is truly wonderful. The Ceylon native is a man of very dark complexion, darker in colour than a Madrasee or a South Indian, and is lightly built in frame. The average man is short compared with the European standard, but he is active, slim, and inclined to be cheerful and contented.

We were very hospitably received by the Ceylon Club, who entertained us in the evening. His Excellency the Governor sent us an invitation to dinner, which was much appreciated by us. We were obliged to disappoint the Ceylon Cricket Club, owing to our inability to play the match against them, as arranged, on account of the comparatively short stay of our vessel in port. We were all sorry to leave Colombo, inasmuch as the monotony of the sea voyage was now beginning to tell upon us, and a good fresh meal, the luxury of a fresh water bath, and a pleasant walk in this oriental city was, indeed, thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by every one, and was a most welcome change.

From Ceylon to Albany we experienced changeable weather. The sea was always high, and a fresh wind was invariably blowing, causing, during the next ten days, a considerable amount of pitching and rolling, when the bad sailors of the team again experienced rather an unpleasant time.

The only excitement during this portion of the voyage, now that the tournaments and different games had ceased, was the introduction of ladies' cricket matches, several matches being played which caused great excitement and merriment among all the passengers on board. The members of our team assisted them greatly in carrying out the details of the matches. In the first few games the ladies showed a very primitive knowledge of cricket, and

the captains of the two sides had nothing to recommend them, except that their knowledge of the game was even more limited than their subordination, but this only served to make things more lively. In justice to them, however, it must be admitted that they improved wonderfully, their bowling and fielding in the end becoming exceedingly smart, although their batting, in most cases, remained comparatively poor.

A young South Australian lady proved herself a very useful member of her side, and was by far the best all-round player among the fair sex. A Melbourne lady, married to a retired captain of the Dragoon Guards, developed into an excellent fast underhand bowler. Many distinguished themselves in fielding. The ladies showed great keenness for the game, and in their spare moments practised assiduously. It was a pity, however, that they did not start it earlier in the voyage, as they showed great quickness in picking up the different points of the game. To relieve the monotony of the evenings, notwithstanding the rather heavy sea, a fancy dress ball and a particularly good concert were arranged to take place on different nights, and proved great successes. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed these entertainments, but, none the less, everybody was delighted to reach Albany, the first piece of land that we touched after leaving Colombo—one might say the first seen since leaving Ceylon.

The cricketing authorities of West Australia, residing at Albany, hospitably invited the team to lunch. We sailed the same evening, and arrived on Sunday the 22nd at Largs Bay, after a comparatively quiet passage across the "Bight." Here we met with a very enthusiastic reception at the landing stage from the Adelaide inhabitants.

Notwithstanding the fact that we were all weary of the long voyage, we left the ship with feelings of regret. We had gained many friends on board, and the kindness of the officers, and especially of the captain, made us and the passengers very fond of them and the boat. There is not a member of the English team who has not a warm corner in his heart for Captain Inskip of the *Ormuz*, due to his kindness and courtesy during the whole voyage. The whole team met with a great reception at Adelaide on arrival at the platform of the railway station. In the usual order of things, and following the routine of the previous tour, an informal gathering in the shape of a reception took place at our hotel on the same day, under the presidency of Sir Edwin Smith. The Mayor received us in the Town Hall next day, and his Excellency the Governor honoured us by inviting us to dinner during our stay in Adelaide. The team visited the excellent Botanical Gardens and Zoo, as well as Mount Lofty, and were very much struck with the superb roses and the general beauty of the gardens, and the

lovely views obtainable from the summit of Mount Lofty.

Having completed the Adelaide match we arrived in Melbourne, after a cold journey, to witness the Cup. It was a great sight, and we unanimously agreed that a grander scene on a racecourse had never been witnessed by any of us than on that day at the celebrated Flemington course. The enormous mass of human beings assembled on the hill, in the stands and paddock, and in the plain in the centre of the course for the free use of the public, was a revelation to us of the Australian love of sport. The Australian strikes us as being eager to be considered a good sportsman, in preference to anything else. The desire is by no means an unworthy one, as being a good sportsman is, after all, one of the best traits of man. The team once again visited the racecourse on Oaks day, where, through the kindness of the members of the V.R.C., we were made honorary members of the club during our stay. Most of us who had not been successful in backing the winners on Cup day, had another pleasant day's sport, and more satisfactory luck. The arrangements for the races were perfect. The starting machine is a great improvement on the system which still prevails in the Old Country, and strict punctuality was observed throughout the two days.

Our stay in Melbourne was, indeed, a pleasant one.

The team went through the same functions and receptions as at Adelaide, and the amateur members witnessed one of the greatest fancy-dress balls of the Australian season, given by His Excellency Lord Brassey. A wonderfully pretty sight it was, replete with costumes representing old historical periods, and characters from the Saxon down to the Georgian period in English history. Roman gods and goddesses were there; the mythology of Greece was well represented; the proverbial Turk was present; the Indian Potentate was not forgotten; the Arab of the desert was in evidence; and Her Majesty's Beefeater from Buckingham Palace was most conspicuous.

At the end of our stay in Melbourne we were convinced of four things. That the hospitality of the Australian was one of his best traits. That the cities of Melbourne and Adelaide—and particularly beautiful Melbourne, with its wide streets and grand buildings—were quite European and up-to-date, notwithstanding their youth; thus impressing upon us the marvellously rapid progress of this country. That the racecourse at Flemington is superb and costly, and can safely be considered one of the best in the world. Lastly, that the cable trams and the cricket-ground can hardly be surpassed anywhere.

CHAPTER III.

OUR FIRST MATCHES.

THE first match in Adelaide was commenced at noon, four days after the team arrived. Most of the Englishmen were still suffering from a slight attack of influenza, which made itself felt among the passengers generally on board the *Ormuz* just before sighting Albany.

The South Australians had Lyons as their captain, in the absence of George Giffen. We were disappointed at Giffen's unfortunate decision not to meet us on the field in this our match against the South Australians. The English captain, Stoddart, left out N. F. Druce, who was ill in bed, and Board, the reserve wicket-keeper. Much to the surprise of all of us, the day was dull and chilly, and quite cold enough to remind one of an early spring day in England. Most of the team were disappointed at this inauspicious beginning of the Australian climate, particularly as we were all afraid to face the inclemency of the cold atmosphere after the effects of the recent chill.

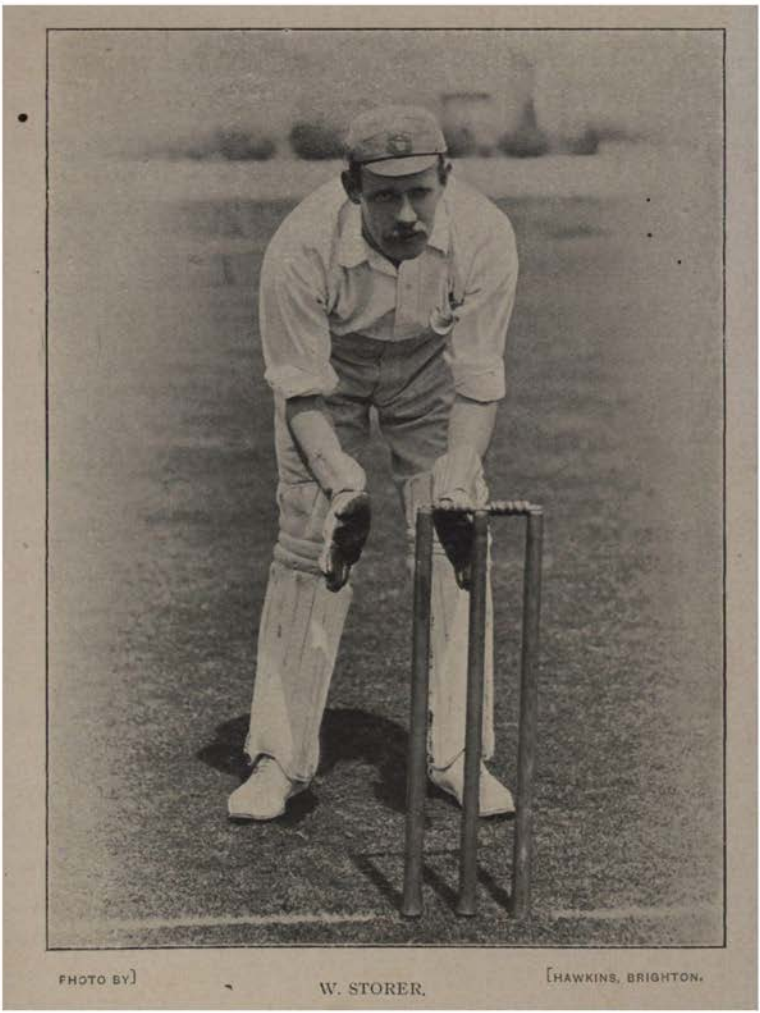

PHOTO BY] W. STORER. [HAWKINS, BRIGHTON.

On the spin of the coin the Australian skipper was correct in guessing the turn-up, and decided to take first innings on the magnificent fast wicket prepared for the match quite a fortnight previous to the day appointed for the commencement. To the new members of this team the differences existing between the English and Australian grounds, both as regards the pavilion and ground itself, were clearly noticeable. The rather primitive arrangements in the dressing-room of the players and in the members' enclosure were a keen disappointment to us. So also was the general outlook of the ground, apart from the wicket. The ground appeared very hard and bare of grass, and on the rough side much reminding one of the cricket fields of the North of England, where football plays an important part during seven months of the year. The sight-boards behind the bowler's arm appeared to be but reminders of the existence of such things for a better purpose in England. But coming to the wicket, the disadvantages of the Adelaide Oval ceased, and in this respect it could compare favourably with any other cricket ground in the Old Country. The wicket was perfection itself, and the pace, to judge by its look, seemed to be terrific. It was evident from the first ball bowled that the batsmen would have to get themselves out on this wicket.

The South Australians commenced their innings with Lyons and Darling—a magnificent combination,

inasmuch as one was a right-handed batsman, regarded as an unrivalled hitter, the other a left-hander, combining the most stubborn defence with enormous hitting powers. We were fortunate at the start in getting rid of Darling, the most dangerous left-handed batsman in this country, for a cipher.

His successor, Clem Hill, the youngest member of the 1896 Australian team to England, after joining Lyons at the wickets until he got out first thing next morning, played a great innings for his side from first to last. I question if a safer, sounder innings was ever played in Australia against an English team. He showed us that he was master of the pace of the wicket from the commencement of his long innings. From what I saw all through the match, it was pace that beat the batsmen on either side; but Hill was the only exception. He played all bowlers with the greatest confidence and skill. He played Richardson with the utmost ease; Hearne and Hirst were treated with scant respect; and although Briggs, the veteran of the team, had the good fortune to beat him once during his long innings, he was severely punished afterwards. Wainwright and Hayward shared the same fate. As everybody knows, Hill is exceptionally strong on the "on" side. The forcing of the balls on the "on" side, whenever short-pitched, was indeed very clever. He seemed able to "drive," or "hook," or "glance" on that side of the wicket with equal skill and success.

On the "off" side, however, he struck one as short of strokes, as he seemed to rest content with a square cut and a drive between cover and mid-off. When making these strokes, he did not show the same mastery of placing the ball to dodge the fieldsman as he did on the leg side. His defence was clear and safe, and for a player so young he has any amount of patience and stamina. To all of us it seemed clear that he would be one of the toughest opponents as a batsman against whom we should have to contend.

The rest of the South Australian batting sinks into comparative insignificance compared with this great display. Jarvis was the next scorer, and he made several hard and excellent strokes. His batting, however, had too much of the blind hitting about it to be considered either safe or scientific, inasmuch as the latitude of a stroke, by means of which he got nearly 60 out of the 79 runs which he obtained, ranged from "extra cover" down to "extra slip," and although he was a considerable time at the wickets, each bowler looked to have a chance of getting him out. Lyons, who in England was a general favourite of both the 1890 and 1893 teams, seemed to us to play a totally different game to that with which he delighted the British public during those trips, when he piled up those marvellous and wonderfully hit quick scores of his. He adopted a steady and more careful style of obtaining his runs

in both the knocks he had against us, but he was none the less useful to his side and skilful in his play, and he gave one the idea of being a dangerous bat. One cannot say very much about the display of the others, inasmuch as it never rose beyond mediocrity. Reedman, Evans, and Walter Giffen are useful bats; Grey, McKenzie, Drew, and Jones are not a quartette that are likely to run up more than forty runs between them in their best canter. There can be no doubt the South Australian score was mainly the result of one man's batting, but for whom it would have hardly reached 200.

Coming now to the English batting, and taking the highest score first, inasmuch as the highest score is always the most welcome to a side, it can only be said about my innings that it was quite as lucky as it was useful. Mason and MacLaren, who opened our innings, are batsmen who score very rapidly, and are two of the most dangerous run-getters in England. It was clear that neither of them were in form, but particularly so was it the case with MacLaren, who was out for a "duck's egg," although, curiously enough, the first run, which was conceded as a "bye," was actually hit off his bat. Mason, though not at his best, played an elegant and a dashing innings for his runs. Hayward and Hirst were two other disappointments as far as batting was concerned. Wainwright seemed to shape well, and was unfortunate in playing "on."

By far the best innings of the Englishmen, however, was that of Storer, who played a very vigorous, well-timed, and clever innings for over 80. He played the bowling with great confidence and ease. Hearne, the bowler, played a useful innings of 31, while Storer was hitting away merrily. Neither Briggs nor Richardson troubled the scorers. Stoddart, the captain, who was shaping better than anyone at the nets, was unluckily too ill to bat for us, the fielding of the opening day having too seriously affected his health to enable him to take any further part during the match. It was a bitter disappointment, both to our side and to the South Australian public, that his batting was not forthcoming to augment the score for England, and delight the crowd with his extraordinary powerful drives and well-timed forward strokes. There can be little doubt, though it is never safe to predict at cricket, that the English team would have won the match ultimately with considerable ease had it been fought out to an end. The desire, however, to be the first team that had been the fortunate spectators of the race for the Melbourne Cup, prevented them from devoting an extra day to finish off the game, which was sadly interfered with during its later stages by frequent showers of rain.

Coming now to the bowling, the palm amongst the English bowlers must be awarded to Richardson, Hearne, and Hirst. Hayward, however, had

the satisfaction of getting rid of Clement Hill. Hirst and Hearne who, it was considered by some excellent judges in England, would prove comparatively ineffectual as bowlers, bowled in a style that augured well for their success during the tour. Briggs, however, had the least success and luck, and failed both in batting and fielding. Considering what an excellent cover and bat he is reputed to be, his failure showed conclusively to us that he was far from well. The English fielding was, indeed, very good. MacLaren, Mason, Hirst, and Storer were conspicuous in their respective places, notwithstanding the strange surroundings and the roughness of the ground. MacLaren and Hirst were, indeed, quite brilliant. The way in which MacLaren chased and picked up with either hand balls travelling near the boundary was, indeed, a sight to stir the admiration of every cricket enthusiast.

Comparing the bowling now of the South Australians, one cannot help thinking that it lacked "class." Giffen was sorely missed as a bowler. The changes —Reedman, Lyons, Green, Jarvis, and Evans—were not such as to inflict terror on the opposing batsmen. Of all these, however, Evans seemed to have more "sting" and variety in his "slow medium." His action reminded one slightly of George Giffen, so also his "hanging slow." There can be no doubt that he has carefully studied the Australian crack, and to some purpose. Jones, however, was the

mainstay in this department, and he got seven wickets in the match. Before speaking, however, as to the fairness of his delivery, a word as to the South Australian fielding would not be out of place.

In every Australian combination I have seen since 1888, I have always noticed that their fielding was in most cases superior to that of the Englishmen. But in this particular match the fielding of the South Australians could hardly be considered first-class. Both in ground fielding and in catches, they were exceedingly lax and uncertain, and showed a woeful ignorance in placing their men in the various positions. Their form in fielding on their own ground was almost too bad to be true. Two exceptions, however, have to be made ; Drew and Jones in their respective positions were admirable. In fact, they could hardly be improved upon, and their picking up and accurate returns were generally admired by all present on the ground. The general idea conveyed was that the team's fielding as a whole was poor and sluggish, and to this fact the large score made by their opponents was to be attributed. The catch that Drew made at square leg, which closed my innings, was a brilliant piece of work, and deserves special mention.

If for no other reason, apart from Hill's great innings, or from the general high scoring, this match was made memorable by the fact that a

bowler of a very superior class was, for the first time in Australia, "no-balled," for unfair bowling. It would have been, perhaps, unwise for me, as a member of the English team, to criticise in an unfavourable light Jones' bowling had I been less fortunate in my innings against him, or had I not, during his tour in England, always upheld him as a fair bowler. But now in this review of the match, writing purely as a critic, I cannot but admire the pluck and judgment of the umpire who "no-balled" him.

I wish it clearly to be understood, before making any further criticism, that I don't in any way accuse Jones of throwing deliberately (that is to say, of throwing, knowing himself to be throwing when he was supposed to be bowling). At the same time, I cannot help thinking that his action is such that were I to practise or cultivate it, I should have no hesitation in believing myself to be throwing. It is decidedly unfortunate that the laxity and neglect of the leading club in England should have allowed unfair actions to be cultivated in cricket. I have read since this incident many arguments both for and against this case in point, and about throwing in general, from experts in this country. Most of them claim that, inasmuch as doubtful actions have been allowed to go unchallenged, owing to the neglect of the M.C.C. authorities in England, the first Australian bowler whose delivery is doubtful should

not be the first victim. I must admit that I differ from this view, inasmuch as Crossland was the first to suffer in this respect.

There is also a vast difference between an action that seems doubtful as to whether it is a throw or not, and one which appears to be nothing short of a deliberate throw. I have personally accused in England one bowler of throwing (and it is a curious thing that he happened to be a member of my own side, and also a personal friend), although I have not the slightest doubt, just as in this case, that he did not think that he threw. But any person unprejudiced, whether a player in Australia or in England, would see that the action of Jones or Fry constitute in every sense a throw, inasmuch as they use, not only the wrist and shoulder, but also the elbow, which plays an important, if not the leading, part in imparting the pace and projecting the ball.

If it were not for the fact that throwing minimised skill, and brought unnecessary danger into the game, there could, indeed, be no harm in its introduction into cricket. But inasmuch as this excellent pastime cultivates many manly virtues, all who appreciate and know the game generally admit that it ought to be played without endangering unnecessarily the safety of the players. Again, it ought to maintain to its fullest the amount of skill required for successful bowling. Mere physical or brute strength ought not to gain an advantage over the real subtleties of the

art of bowling. For these reasons, therefore, throwing ought certainly to be disqualified and condemned.

At the present day, with really fair bowling, strong men, and men not endowed with the same physical force, fast bowlers, medium bowlers and slow bowlers alike, are at the same level in obtaining batsmen's wickets, and are put on their metal as regards skill. Once allow throwing in cricket, and the stronger the "chucker," the more chance he will have of frightening batsmen out, and turning the game from what it is into a game very much akin to baseball—an excellent game in its own way, but one which will never take the place of cricket. The chief characteristics of the throw are that it comes quicker off the pitch and has a natural "break" from its very action, and is apt to get up on the most perfect wicket, much to the dismay of batsmen. These peculiarities are imparted to the ball without any skill whatever on the part of the thrower.

Another argument against throwing that applies especially to Australia is, that owing to the great pace of its wickets, the ball, after a fast throw, comes so quickly off the pitch, that it does not give the batsmen time to even shape for a stroke. Thus batting which against fair bowling would be full of variety, and well worth watching, does not receive a fair chance when the ball is actually thrown.

A further argument put forward in favour of allowing Jones' "delivery" to go unquestioned is,

"Why should he be no-balled now, when he was passed as a fair bowler in England?" In reply to this query I would state that at home (and this must have been apparant to all who saw him bowl in England), his action was, at the worst, merely like some other bowlers' actively engaged in English cricket—doubtful as to its fairness. Whereas now, as we saw him bowl in the first match, his action constituted in every sense a fair and square "chuck."

The sooner, therefore, umpires all over the cricketing countries follow the worthy example set by Phillips, of eradicating throwing in any class of cricket, the better it will be for the game. I, for one, think the cricket communities in all countries owe a debt of gratitude to Phillips for having partly smoothed the way for other umpires to treat such unfair actions, be they in England or Australia, in the way that they deserve.

Several experts in this country thought that the umpire erred in cautioning the bowler. The error, however, was on the right side, so to speak. That is to say, although legally he had no right to do so, the prevailing obstinacy in letting such actions go unchallenged induced him to warn the bowler before he took the final step as to "no-balling." This point, however, is beyond the mark, and has no bearing on the legality of throwing. A sensible suggestion of Phillips, the umpire, is that the rule

empowering the umpire to "no-ball" a bowler ought to be altered by adding the word "either," so as to read thus: "48a.—If either umpire be not satisfied of the absolute fairness of the delivery of any ball he shall call 'no-ball.'" This would facilitate the duties of the umpire greatly. It is to be hoped that after this incident Jones will adopt the action with which he bowled in England, as there can be but little doubt that his present action, which he has recently cultivated, can only be described as a throw, an opinion which is endorsed, not only by the English cricketers of the present tour, but generally by the public in South Australia and Victoria.

The second match, against Victoria, was commenced on the Saturday following the Cup at Melbourne. The English team differed only in one instance. Druce, who had recovered by this time from his indisposition, took the place of Briggs, who was in very poor health. The Melbourne ground was very much admired by all of us, as exceedingly pretty, and in grand condition as regards the turf. The members' and public stands, when filled as they were on Saturday with an immense crowd of both sexes, presented a picturesque and beautiful sight.

The Victorian captain, Trott, followed in the footsteps of the South Australian in defeating the English captain in the choice of innings. The Victorian batting, taken as a whole, was undoubt-

edly superior to that of the South Australian, although not one innings during the match came up in excellence to that of Hill. Bruce in the first innings, and Worrall in the second innings, however, gave two excellent displays in their own particular styles. Bruce's batting in the first innings, although characterised by a certain amount of luck, in having the good fortune to be missed once or twice, was of a brilliant description. His "off" hitting and cutting being exceedingly crisp and severe, and he showed a greater variety of strokes than any Australian batsmen had displayed up to this match, Worrall made the highest score for the Victorians during their second innings, and it was a distinctly high-class contribution, chiefly characterised by wonderful patience and strong defence. The ball that got rid of him in the second innings was, indeed, a real "trimmer."

McLeod, Harry, and M'Michael, contributed in their own styles excellent scores for their side. McLeod's batting is, indeed, difficult to describe. He reminded me, with his forward play, to some degree, of Donnan. The way in which he brought his bat forward like a pendulum, often led the bowler to think he could get him out behind the wicket, but at the last moment McLeod seemed to have a reserve "drag," which enabled him to meet the ball more on the face of the bat than one expected from his first lunge. He has several

excellent drives on the "off" side, with a neat stroke to "leg." Harry and M'Michael played sound, though slow, wicket. Graham and Trott, who are, undoubtedly, the two best batsmen in the team, we were fortunate in meeting out of form, and during their short stays they played good and attractive cricket. Giller showed watchful defence, and is, undoubtedly, a sound player.

The English bowling in this match did not reach the standard of excellence it was expected to, although Hayward and Hearne accomplished two very good performances. Richardson was bowling well at times, but was rather disappointing, and as in the previous match did not appear to have got into his usual stride. Hence his bowling lacked that diablerie and pace with which his name will ever be associated. He appeared also to bowl too straight, and sent down many loose ones on the "leg" side. Hirst and Wainwright both bowled fairly, but without much luck.

The fielding of the Englishmen in the first innings was decidedly poor; Mason, Hirst, and MacLaren were the only exceptions. Storer behind the wickets was again in fine form. The catching of most of the team was sadly at fault, and to it principally must be attributed the score of 300 and over made by the Victorians. Of the batting of the English team in their first innings, with the exception of Storer, it can only be said that it was rather of a

disappointing nature. Mason, MacLaren, Druce, Stoddart, Wainwright, and Hirst, contributed useful additions to the total. Hayward and MacLaren clearly showed that they were still out of form. Storer's batting was brilliant and safe, and was the only redeeming feature of the first innings.

The English first innings was about sixty behind the Victorian total. Wanting, therefore, 300 to win the match, the Englishmen performed well up to a certain point, but the match was interesting and exciting right up to the finish, owing to the luck of the game varying at different times in the innings. The match, however, was ultimately won, through the instrumentality of Mason's magnificent batting, as he carried out his bat for a beautiful 128. Storer and myself rendered him much-needed assistance by contributing 47 and 64 respectively towards our score. For the second time in the match Storer, at a critical part of the game, played a plucky and confident innings.

Turning now to the Victorian fielding throughout the match, one has nothing but praise for them all. Their catching and picking up, and generally smart work in the field, went a long way in keeping the English score down in both innings. Trott, at "point," was clever, safe and expectant. Trumble in the slips was admirable. Worrall at mid-off, Bruce at cover, and Harry in the various positions he occupied, were extremely brilliant. Johns,

behind the sticks, was simply superb, and the clean and stylish way he took the bowling of Trumble, Roche, Trott, McLeod, and Giller, was the general theme of admiration among all who witnessed his performance. The other members of the team, through not having so much work to do, were not so conspicuous, but they worked with much energy, and showed the same safety as their comrades. I must frankly admit that the Victorian fielding, if not better than the English, was, at any rate, in no way inferior.

There is one more point with regard to this match, apart from the first-class bowling, that must be especially dwelt upon, and that is the excellent judgment shown by Harry Trott in the management of his team in their out-cricket. The way in which he handled the bowling of Trumble, Roche, Giller, McLeod, and himself, was very effective, and the judgment he displayed in placing fields for the incoming batsmen showed that he had a thorough and competent knowledge of the strokes of the opposing players. There can be no doubt that a good deal of credit of making such a close and tight game against the visitors must be awarded to Trott for his very able captaincy. Personally, having played against him in 1896 in many memorable matches in England, I have every reason to believe in Trott as one of the very best, if not the best, of present-day captains, an opinion which, indeed, has

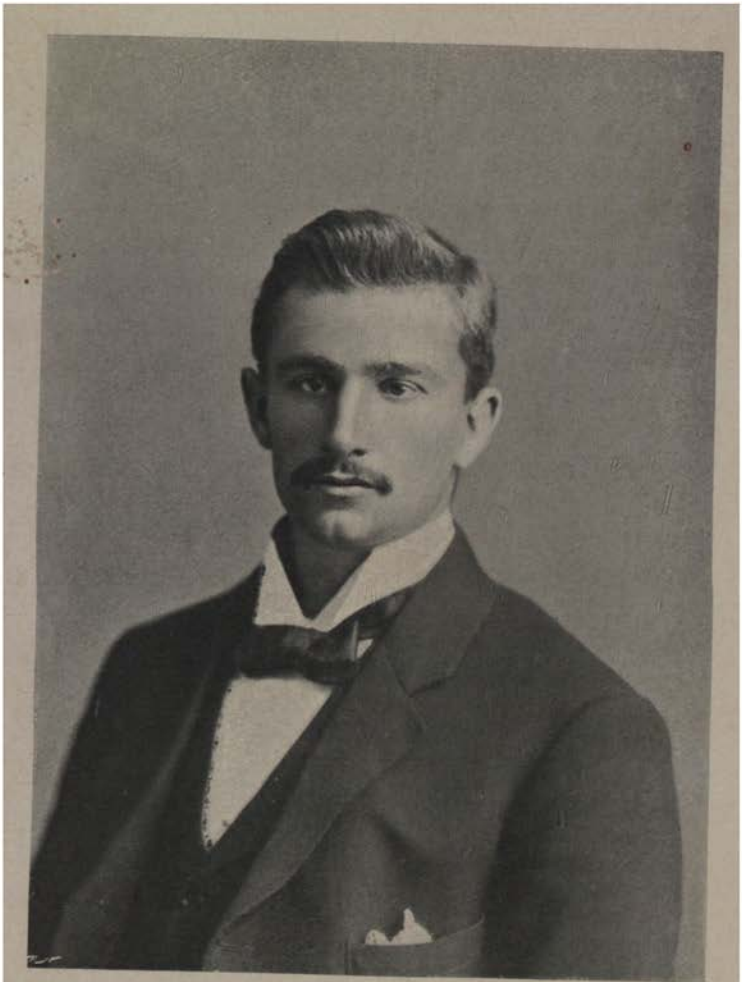

PHOTO BY] M. A. NOBLE. [FRUHLING, ADELAIDE.

been strengthened during this last match that we have just played against him.

Trumble enhanced his reputation by keeping wonderful length, and bowling many a deceptive ball. Roche and Trott worthily backed him up in both innings. Indeed, the bowling of the Victorians in our first display with the bat on a wicket which was in every way favourable to the batsmen, could hardly have been improved upon. The amount of really loose bowling during the whole of the innings could scarcely have exceeded a dozen balls. The bowling in the second innings, although not reaching to quite the same excellence, was, notwithstanding, of a very high-class order. Giller, the new man, showed the ability to bowl a deceptive ball occasionally. McLeod, however, gave me the impression of trying more dodges than the others, and his variation of pace, without materially altering his action, deserved greater success than it met with.

The match ultimately was won by two wickets, and it served to show us that we must not treat our opponents lightly, or run any unnecessary risk during any part of the match, particularly in the judgment of the batsmen in obtaining short runs.

The Melbourne Cricket Ground reminds one of the "Old Trafford" at Manchester, although it must be admitted that it is a great improvement on it, and it was acknowledged by all of us that it was the best

ground we had seen or played on either in England or Australia up to that date. Another point as regards the crowd that struck us all was the enormous number of ladies present in both matches, and the keen and lively interest they took during the progress of the several days' play. It seemed a pity that during the different intervals of the match the ladies were prohibited, from want of space, from promenading, as they do at Lord's and on the Oval in England, a sight that is at all times attractive and picturesque in a cricket match. The crowd, taken as a whole, is fickle and changeable in its appreciation or otherwise of the good points or mistakes of a player, who comes in for an excessive amount of applause or undeserved "barracking."

CHAPTER IV.

THE NORTHERN TOUR.

ON the completion of the match, and after our close and exciting victory, against Victoria, the English team left Melbourne on Tuesday evening by a special train for Sydney. The journey was exceedingly pleasant and comfortable, a magnificent car having been put at our disposal by the kindness and courtesy of the railway authorities. We did not see much of the country on our journey, inasmuch as we travelled by night. At Albury we changed trains, and after having breakfasted at Moss Vale, reached Sydney next morning about eleven o'clock.

A big crowd had gathered, as at Adelaide and Melbourne, to welcome us on the platform of the Sydney station. Having made ourselves presentable, we went to the Town Hall for the Mayor's reception, where a luncheon was provided for us. The usual number of speeches having been made and listened to, plus nine more from retiring aldermen, each one of whom impressed on us the

importance of his own ward, and also the long term of years he had the honour to represent it. We were kindly asked by the Mayor to go over the spacious Town Hall, which is a magnificent building, and well worthy of a city like Sydney. We were also favoured, thanks to the Mayor's kindness, by a few selections by the organist on the Town Hall organ. The one most appreciated, and which made the greatest impression on the audience, was the representation of a "storm"; the different imitations of a real storm, such as the hissing of the wind, the crack and growl of the thunder, and the noise of falling rain, were admirably executed, and were, indeed, pleasant to hear.

In the afternoon we went to the cricket ground to have a "knock." Every one of us was delighted with the appearance of the ground, which, we granted readily, was in no way inferior to the M.C.C. ground. The players indulged in a very wholesome and useful practice at the net wickets that had been got ready for our special benefit. Several members of the team were snap-shotted by the inevitable camera men that evening, and the results, as seen afterwards in one of the weekly newspapers, were surprisingly successful. We practised twice on Thursday, both in the morning and afternoon, in order to get familiar with the pace and light of the ground before meeting with the strongest colony in Australia.

On Friday the match commenced, and Stoddart having lost the toss for the third time in succession, led his men into the field. The team, as constituted, was exactly the same as that opposed to Victoria, Board and Briggs being left out. The New South Wales batting was opened by Trumper and Donnan. Trumper was the first to leave, after registering 37, having played a loose ball rather carelessly into my hands. He created a very favourable impression on me from the way in which he was shaping at the wickets. He seemed to be all there, and the confidence with which he played the bowling, although it was for a very short time, makes me firmly believe that he will be a very great batsman in this country, and at no very distant date. Indeed, I have seen very few beginners play the ball so well, and show the same excellent style.

Gregory, who followed, together with Donnan, took an unnecessary amount of risk, in running short runs, considering the state of the game. I have often noticed this peculiarity in Australian batsmen. It is a curious thing, but it is true nevertheless, that most English batsmen do exactly the opposite of this, and are, if anything, rather slow in taking advantage of quick runs. The Australians always take a certain amount of risk, and often with success, for the sake of these short runs. But the happy medium is the best. A single run is never worth risking a wicket for. For my own part, I feel

convinced that the loss of a wicket is not compensated for by the fact, that the ultimate gain, after all the flurry, is a single run. Gregory after making several cuts, paid the penalty of being run out by a well-directed shot from "extra-slip" by Druce. He at no time appeared to be at home to the bowling. Noble, who succeeded him, succumbed to Richardson after making four.

What a change in the game Iredale brought upon joining Donnan! and what a lovely innings he played! Iredale's 90 is undoubtedly one of the best and most brilliant innings against good bowling I have seen, and certainly the best I have seen him play. From the first ball he received, up to the time he was dismissed, he displayed great confidence and brillance in his execution. He drove, cut, and glanced with equal precision and skill, He invariably met the ball full on the face of the bat, making it travel with great speed. An innings of this nature is always exhilarating, not only to the player himself, but to the spectators and his opponents alike, and we were unanimous that, so far, it was the best innings that had been played against us by any batsman in the three colonies. Iredale's batting is remarkably free from weak points. He has a great variety of strokes on both sides of the wickets, and his style is admirable and pretty. There were two curious points about his innings: firstly, when in the 20's he was given "in" by the umpire

when appealed to, but he admitted in the most generous manner afterwards that he had touched the ball when the wicket-keeper appealed; and secondly, when at 90, he was given out l.b.w., when he was palpably not out, inasmuch as the ball was hit very hard on to his legs. It was most unfortunate that the latter should have happened, as he was so well set, and going so strong, so to speak, that he appeared good for a century, and the unfortunate error of the umpire, in this case a bad mistake, deprived him of the chance of making a century. There is one other point about Iredale's innings well worth mentioning, and that is, the brilliant way in which he scored 20 runs off one of Hirst's overs, consisting of five fours, each one of the hits being a different stroke.

McKenzie and Donnan after this made another protracted stand. Neither of them are fast scorers, but that does not imply that they both did not play excellent cricket for their side. Donnan made some excellent "cover" drives and cuts, and McKenzie occasionally enlivened matters by obtaining a four with a straight drive past the bowler. Both Donnan and McKenzie have a very stubborn and sound defence. Donnan, however, has occasionally a fling at off balls, without having much regard as to the consequences of touching them, but both are very difficult bats to get rid of. McKenzie plays with a very straight bat, but he does not utilise his

height and reach to any appreciable extent, most of his runs being obtained by straight drives on either side of the bowler. I cannot understand why he is so short of strokes in a match, for I have seen him make a variety of strokes and powerful hits at practice. He does not attempt to cut at all, though he occasionally forces a single on the "on." Donnan has very powerful drives from "cover" to "mid-off"; yet he, also, on the "on" side is rather weak, for apart from a single occasionally forced, he does not attempt to play the ball there. Donnan has a very clever square cut, but he does not always seem to take pains to place the ball away from the field.

Late in the afternoon, after trying many changes in the bowling, in which, by the way, Storer was put on, I having taken his place at the wickets, we managed to get Donnan dismissed, Hayward cleverly running him out from "cover." Donnan's 104 was a highly meritorious and sound contribution to his side, for, though lacking in the brilliance which characterised Iredale's display, it was very fine in many ways, its chief merit being that it gradually wore down the English bowling. No further disasters happened to the colonial side that afternoon, the total for the day being 303 for five wickets. The next morning the remaining five wickets fell for an additional eight runs only. Owing to a slight shower that fell during the morn-

ing the ball seemed to get "up" an inch or too more than the ordinary height, thus contributing, in a degree, to the collapse of the Home team's innings. The English bowling during the innings of the New South Welshmen cannot by any means be called deadly; indeed, on the first day it could hardly have been called good. None of the bowlers seemed to possess any "devil," and apart from keeping a good length, they bowled most disappointingly. The next morning Richardson and Hearne disposed of the remaining batsmen very cheaply, but it was owing more to a feeble display on the part of the batsmen than to any extraordinary fire in their attack. Richardson, however, came out best with four wickets.

The English batting was opened by MacLaren and Mason as usual. Mason, myself and Hayward were all easily got rid of, our batting being of a most disappointing nature, and not one of us gave an exhibition that might be termed first-class. A short stand was made by MacLaren and Druce, but the latter, after making a few good hits, in his anxiety to score quickly skied one up and retired for 10. The stand of the innings was made when Storer joined MacLaren, both men playing splendid cricket. MacLaren, for the first time in the tour, showed something like his true form, and as his score increased he played better and better cricket. His driving after he had made 20 runs was excep-

tionally fine, and equally brilliant was his placing on the "on" side. The way in which he "glanced" and "hooked" McKibbin, Howell, Noble, and Conningham was delightful to witness. He punished McKibbin a good deal, and though beaten several times by the ball in the early part of the innings, when the wicket was "doing" a bit, and though later there were periods of recklessness on his part through sheer exhaustion, he nevertheless played a great innings. His late cutting was very clever, for he dodged the fieldsmen who were placed in the slips very effectively.

Storer's batting, as in the previous matches, though not elegant, was again very forcible, brilliant, and pleasing to watch. The way in which he pulled McKibbin's best length balls from the "off" to nearly "square leg" was astonishing. There can be no doubt that he demoralises the bowlers with these extraordinary strokes; but he does not solely depend upon his pulls for his runs, for he has any amount of other strokes on both sides of the wicket. He "cuts" admirably, and his drive past "extra cover" yields him many runs. His "leg glance" is very effective, and the confidence and ease with which he tackles the bowling makes it easy for the batsmen who follow him. His score of 81 was a very brilliant effort at a much-needed time. Wainwright, without showing his best form, contributed a useful 24.

A curious thing took place during Stoddart's innings. After making a few runs he hit a ball hard from the bottom of his bat close on to the ground underneath, the ball itself bouncing off into Garrett's hands at "mid-off." The bowler, thinking it was a catch, shouted to the fieldsman, who had been much unnerved and annoyed by the crowd constantly "barracking" him in the most ungenerous fashion, to catch it. The fieldsman did so, tossing the ball up, not knowing exactly what had happened through the state of mind he was in at the time; Stoddart, although having grave doubts about it being a catch, owing to the action of both bowler and fieldsman, returned to the pavilion. Storer, his partner, keeping cool, and seeing the proper state of things, appealed to the umpire, and the umpire promptly decided in the batsman's favour. Stoddart then returned to the wickets, Storer having explained the circumstances to him. A good deal of talk and matter was made out of the incident, but as usual it was not much to the point. Stoddart's contribution of 32 was, by no means, worthy of him, but there can be no doubt that this incident made him, to a certain extent, reckless. Hirst, Hearne, and Richardson's wickets fell quickly, and with the exception of MacLaren and Storer's batting, the English display was feeble and disappointing.

The bowling honours on the New South Wales side were clearly carried off by Noble, who bowled

with excellent judgment and skill. There is something very peculiar about the flight of the ball in the air when he is bowling. He seems to make it curl occasionally from the "off" to the "on," and now and then from the "on" to the "off." Noble, however, was bowling against the wind the greater part of the time he was on, and I have but little doubt this had a great deal to do with making him difficult to play. There can be no doubt, however, that he bowled with excellent skill, and varied his pace well, whilst keeping an admirable length, and now and then making the ball come back a good deal.

McKibbin secured the other five wickets. At the start of the innings McKibbin made the ball turn tremendously. He also made the ball nip off the pitch with astonishing rapidity, beating the early batsmen many times. But during his spells of bowling for overs at a time, he seemed to lose control over his length, with the result that he delivered many loose balls. There can be no doubt, however, that occasionally he puts in an exceptionally difficult ball that comes in a great deal from the "off." His slow leg break ball was not very effective. The wind seemed to carry it on to the batsman more than the bowler intended, inasmuch as he gave it a higher elevation. Like Noble, he changes his pace exceptionally well, his fast ball now and then being very deceptive. McKibbin

is one of the few bowlers who can field his own bowling well. After bowling he is always ready to receive the ball back to himself, and he covers any amount of ground on either side of the wicket.

Howell, who bowled a few overs, did not seem to meet with much luck, although he kept a beautiful length, occasionally turning the ball from the "off." But the chief characteristic of his bowling apart from good length, is the fact of it coming rather quick and straight off the pitch. Conningham, whom I saw bowl in England in 1893, has, apparently, lost the sting he had then, and at the same time struck me as having lost his pace a little. He seemed to bowl either too straight, or too wide, more particularly the latter, thus preventing the batsmen from having a nibble at the balls. Neither Conningham nor Howell was utilised to any great extent.

The second innings of the New South Welshmen started badly, for, although the first pair of batsmen made over 50 without being separated, the first five wickets fell for comparatively few runs, and it was not until McKenzie and Garrett got together that the hopes of the Home team were at all cheerful. Donnan played another useful and cautious innings of 29. Sid. Gregory contributed 44. He made several excellent cuts and leg strokes in compiling it, but yet for a batsman of Gregory's ability and stamp it was by no means one of his best efforts. Iredale

appeared dangerous, and we were glad to see him retire for 19. I must own to a feeling of regret that Trumper in the second innings got an exceptionally fine ball that dismissed him before he had got going. It was singularly unfortunate, for it was a bad start for a youngster in his first important engagement, but as to his future success as a batsman I personally have not the slightest doubt. He has impressed himself very favourably on all of us. Noble, on the contrary, from what I had heard of him as a batsman, disappointed me greatly, for in neither innings did he appear at all comfortable.

McKenzie, for the second time in the match, showed that he was possessed of confidence, nerve, and a strong defence, for he, in combination with Garrett, played excellent cricket. Indeed, Garrett's 71 was the second best batting exhibition given during the match by any member of the Home team. His driving and cutting were both well-timed and vigorous, and it clearly showed us that the veteran can still hold his own among the younger players of this country. What an exceptionally good batsman he must have been in his younger days! It was particularly gratifying to all of us, that after the ungenerous and ill-mannered action of the crowd on the previous Saturday, he should have come to the rescue of his side so well and so successfully. The total for the second innings of the New South Welshmen reached 259. Richardson,

for the first time during the match, bowled admirably, and delivered some exceptionally fine balls. Hirst, who kept up an excellent length during the first innings, bowled with better success in his second venture, obtaining four wickets for 96. Storer, who was tried as a change in both innings, did not prove a success, for Donnan and McKenzie in the first innings, and McKenzie and Garrett in the second innings, played him with perfect ease.

The fielding of the English team during the whole of this match was always good, although never brilliant. MacLaren, as usual, showed to great advantage in the country, and Hirst, Wainwright, and Storer were very safe, and Druce and Hayward accomplished two beautiful pieces of work when they disposed of Gregory and Donnan. The catching of the team was far better than the ground work. The fielding ground seemed to be rather rough, for so excellent a ground in other respects, and the ball occasionally hopped about rather curiously.

Wanting 237 to win the English innings was again opened by MacLaren and Mason. The start was not encouraging, as Mason, for the second time in the match, was got rid of under double figures. MacLaren and myself then carried the score to nearly 200, MacLaren surpassing his previous contribution in both soundness and brilliancy, by compiling his second hundred during the match. It was a great performance, and it was particularly gratifying to us

that for the first time in a first-class game in this country such an achievement should be performed by a member of our team, and thus set up a new Australian record. That it should have fallen to the lot of a batsman of MacLaren's calibre was also a fitting thing in itself. In the getting of this second century MacLaren started with greater confidence and better effect than he did during his first innings. He was only twice beaten by the ball, and he made no miss-hits. He was again particularly severe on McKibbin, and his drive on the "off side" was exceedingly well placed and powerful; some of his strokes over "cover's" head being exceptionally fine. He treated the other bowlers alike with scant respect. Noble's wiles had no terrors for him, nor did Howell's good length disconcert him in the least, and it was a pleasure to me to be batting along with him. After breaking two bats during his innings he retired for a grand and brilliant compilation of 100 amidst well deserved applause from everyone present, spectators, opponents, and friends alike. Hayward and myself knocked off the remaining runs; Hayward having 18 to his credit, and I a useful 112. Noble was the bowler who got both the wickets that fell during our second innings, and he again bowled admirably.

Turning to the New South Wales fielding, it was exceptionally good, and quite equal to that of the English. Kelly was very safe behind the wicket.

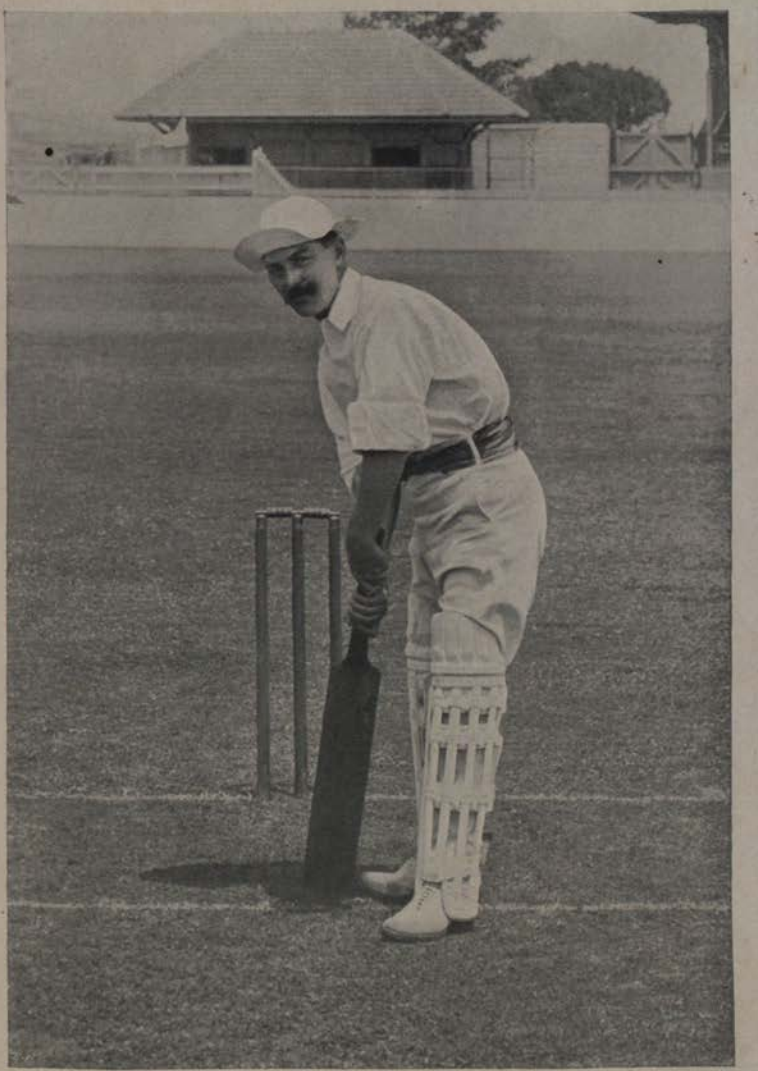

PHOTO BY] [FALK, MELBOURNE.

S. E. GREGORY.

Donnan, Iredale, Gregory, and Trumper were all very safe and brilliant. The catch that disposed of Hayward in the first innings, made by Trumper on the boundary, was a catch worth seeing, and was one of the most brilliant bits of fielding in the country that I have ever witnessed.

Commenting upon the pitch upon which the match was played, one has no hesitation in saying that it was almost perfect. It was, perhaps, the easiest wicket we played on, so far, during the tour. The Sydney Cricket Ground is a magnificent enclosure in every respect, and in the matter of seating accommodation for the public, it is probably the best in the world, inasmuch as it has room for over 40,000 people. The stands, the members' pavilion, and the different parts of the ground, crowded as they were with rows upon rows of men and women on Friday and Saturday of the match, presented a lovely appearance, and vividly reminded me of a similar scene at the M.C.C. enclosure, though on a slightly larger scale, and the great number speaks volumes for the enthusiasm of the people for the game.

The much-abused bicycle track on the ground, without adding any picturesqueness to it, is not so much of a hindrance to the game as it is generally believed to be ; on the contrary, it lends a helping hand, on account of its slope, to the weary fieldsman who chases the hit, by returning the ball a few yards

back on to the turf; but the rule as to catching on this track is not of much value, and as it makes the fieldsman's duty rather unsafe, it ought to be dispensed with. For so excellent a ground in other respects the fielding part is uneven and rough, but no doubt the dry weather is mainly responsible for the shortness of grass and the roughness of the ground. The adverse criticism against the track being there by cricketers is only natural, inasmuch as the cricketer does not wish to see any poaching on what he considers his preserve. The only regrettable incident about the whole match was the merciless way in which the crowd "barracked" the Home captain, and it is high time that such unseemly behaviour should be put a stop to. It is also to be hoped that the crowd from their own good sense will show consideration for mistakes of the players who feel their own errors more keenly than anyone else, and hence ought not to be further handicapped by such outside influences.

The team having now played against the three first-class colonies in Australia, it may be worth while to make a few comments and comparisons on their play. The first match against South Australia was drawn, but it will be admitted by all that, as it stood at the finish, the visiting team would have achieved a handsome victory had it been played out. The second match, against Victoria was indeed a very close thing, as the English team were victorious

by the narrow margin of two wickets only, the Victorians playing a great game throughout. Thanks to the improved form shown in this the third match by both bowlers and batsmen, our best victory was achieved against what I reckon as the strongest colony of the three. There can be no doubt that our victory in this last match was due to the magnificent performance of MacLaren, and secondly to the steady, rather than deadly, bowling of our men. In the matter of fielding, honours must be divided between the two teams. It is never safe to draw comparisons in cricket from performances, yet I cannot help thinking that notwithstanding the close game the Victorians gave us, the New South Wales players showed us better all-round play. Their bowling also had greater variety, their batting greater soundness, and more brilliancy. Without in any way wishing to minimise the credit of the performance of the Home-men in the Victorian match, I cannot help thinking that the English team played far below their true form at Melbourne, the chief failure, of course, being in their batting. Indeed, their show in this respect, with the exception of Mason and Storer, was exceedingly disappointing, and did not foreshadow the early coming into form of some of their players in their next match. At the same time there can be no denying the fact that the Victorians bowled and fielded better than either the South Australians or New South Welshmen. It is

difficult to imagine bowling more on the spot. The Victorians also, as a side, seemed to work harder, that is to say, it appeared as if every particle of work was taken out of their men during the match. The reverse was the case in the South Australian match, inasmuch as the good show made in their batting and bowling was clearly the result of individual performance, as Hill and Jarvis contributed the greater portion in their first innings, and Hill and Lyons made most of the score in their unfinished second innings. In bowling, Jones was unquestionably a host in himself, capturing no less than seven out of the nine wickets that fell.

The English form in the three matches was very much in and out also. In our first match, the batting was very uneven, the score being mainly the work of three men. In the second match we performed in a like manner, the form of the players being very patchy, though it must be remembered that in the first two games, though making a creditable show on the whole, the players were much handicapped owing to their having to get rid of the unpleasant effects of a long sea voyage. The creditable show in the last match, however, was all the more surprising and pleasing to English supporters, as well as to ourselves, after our two comparatively weak displays.

The English bowling throughout the three matches aimed at steadiness, rather than head work

and sting. It has always struck me, whether rightly or wrongly, both at home and now here, that Australian bowlers, whether they be the first pair, or changes, exercised greater head power, used more dodges, and studied the batsman more than English bowlers. The latter, on the other hand, rests content with keeping a good length and aims at wearing out the patience of the batsman. He is more mechanical in his attack, and acts like an automatic machine. With his good length and the wicket helping him slightly, as it generally does, in England, this plan is effective; but on Australian wickets the subtle methods of Australian bowlers are more profitable, and better adapted for successful performances. The Australian bowler often sacrifices length both in trying too many tricks, and attempting to impart a big break on the ball. Both styles have their advantages and disadvantages, but the happy blend is undoubtedly the best, although I must acknowledge that I prefer the Australian method from a purely scientific cricket point of view. There are, however, exceptions to this general statement in both countries.

During our stay in Sydney, apart from our visit to the Mayor at the hospitable reception he extended to us at the Town Hall, there were two other social functions to which we had the honour of being invited. On Friday, His Excellency the Governor entertained most pleasantly the amateur members of

the team; and the following night at a great banquet given in our honour, at the Hotel Australia, by the Sydney Trustees—our hosts in New South Wales—His Excellency the Governor and the Premier of the colony honoured us by their presence, the latter presiding over the banquet. The usual toasts were drunk, and His Excellency, in response to that of his health, made a very neat speech, and alluded to the fact of the present-day Australian wickets being too favourable to batsmen, and thus making cricket a more monotonous game than it was in the olden days, the days when wickets were not so perfect, and the ball hopped about, and quite as frequently shot. There is much truth in this. The time spent in preparing Australian wickets is indeed too long, and affords the batsman an undue advantage over the bowler, who has to wait his opportunity, for a night's heavy rain and a morning sun, eventualities that do not often occur in this part of the world.

The Premier, in the last speech of the evening, amused the audience by his very happy, clever, and interesting remarks. It was unanimously acknowledged that it was one of the best after-dinner speeches on cricket that we had ever heard, and his reply to Mr. Barton, who proposed the toast of his health, by clever hits and allusions to the olden times when they played cricket in their more youthful days, created no end of fun. He wound up by a neat peroration extolling the virtues of the game, for

he said, "That in the midst of all their party differences they had discovered the merit of these noble, manly pastimes, because the bright, genial, and generous instincts which they cultivated in their minds survived all the conflicts and bitterness of their later life"—a grand eulogy for the game, from one of the highest personages of Australia.

On Sunday the team spent a day on the waters of the celebrated Sydney Harbour, and it is unquestionably in every way admirable, picturesque, and wonderful in all its details. A more enjoyable or pleasanter day was never spent by any of us. The day after the match, the Sydney Gun Club invited members of our team to their grounds for an afternoon's pigeon shooting. This kindness was much appreciated, and most of us accepted their kind invitation, Hearne, Wainwright, Board, Briggs and myself taking part in the shooting competition, with a fair measure of success. Indeed, Hearne and Wainwright were above the average, and "Jack's" long shots, which were so telling and clean, were very much admired.

In the previous article in connection with the tour, I mentioned the fact that the present English team were the guests of the Melbourne Cricket Club and the Sydney Trustees, inasmuch as they had been the promoters of both the tours. A good deal of wild talk and speculation is always being made as regards the financial arrangement

of the team, and, as usual, those who know the least about the matter give out the most extraordinary opinions and conjectures, very often wounding, unintentionally, the feelings of those who have undertaken the tour, as well as those who have promoted it.

The English team was brought out to this country under certain risk by the Trustees of the Sydney Cricket Ground and the Melbourne Cricket Club. The risk included the expenses of the team for the journey here and back, the expenses of the amateur members of the team during their stay here, and a fixed sum to the professional members of the team, as well as their expenses. The climatic influences during the big matches also constituted risk in no small measure, and the promoters have to take many other things into consideration besides. In both this combination and in the previous one of which Stoddart was the captain, the same arrangement was strictly adhered to, and some of the amateur members were much abused by ignorant critics on account of vague rumours of their acceptance of a certain payment for loss of time in both these trips. The idea was to make people believe that the status thus assumed was merely in name, and not in reality, and these comments brought a certain amount of odium to the players. The captain himself in this trip, as in the last, was the person chiefly aimed at. It is

needless to say that such unkind remarks are made through thoughtlessness sometimes, but none the less, they are not calculated to promote the best interests of cricket, and will, possibly, deter amateurs from accepting invitations in the future.

Our hosts are kind enough to arrange to leave us with either one or the other of the two managers in order to arrange for our comfort on our different visits to the numerous parts to which we go. Major Wardill and Mr. Philip Sheridan, the one the secretary of the M.C.C., and the other the manager of the Sydney Cricket Ground, are both men of whom the team is genuinely fond, and are capable men, and men of experience for the duties entrusted to their care. They also arrange our fixtures to the satisfaction of the public of this country, and also to suit our convenience. These two men are as different in character as they are in appearance.

Major Wardill is a man of large physical proportions, and looks an old cricketer of bronzed appearance. A thick crop of silvery hair gives one the idea of age, that is at once denied by the energy and activity he displays. "Ben" Wardill has, indeed, an amusing way of speaking, with a certain amount of broad Yorkshire about it, and the way in which he breaks up his sentences by stopping at each word with a curious lisping jerk makes it extremely interesting, though it is a somewhat difficult task at times to follow him. An amusing story is told of

his opinion of the batting of the members of Stoddart's other team after seeing them practice at Adelaide on their arrival. He at once gave out his opinion to the skipper on his asking him what he thought of the players. "Well," he said, "it's Francis Ford first, and the rest nowhere; as for Jack Brown he won't get ten runs in five months, and had better go home." The results of the tour showed him how erroneous his judgment was, and to this day his remark is still a standing joke.

Philip Sheridan is a small man, slightly built, very active and vivacious for a man of his age, and always full of fun and spirits. One can always tell that Philip Sheridan is in the room from the amount of talking and laughing that is going on. His ready wit is indeed astonishing; he always turns everything into a joke, and his punning at times is worthy of Charles Lamb. If the company is dull and low-spirited, Philip Sheridan is the man to cheer it up. One cannot sit a few minutes by his side without being convulsed with laughter at something or other that falls from his lips. Like Major Wardill, he is a firm and true friend. Both managers are most assiduous in their attentions to us, and exceedingly jealous of their trusts.

CHAPTER V.

THE BRISBANE MATCH.

HAVING decisively won the second of our up-country matches, we left for Brisbane, the capital of Queensland. The journey between Toowoomba and Ipswich was indeed very pleasant ; the scenery that we saw between these two places from the top of the hills, where the train runs in a circuitous manner among the hills, was indeed very grand, and well worth viewing. We considered it about the prettiest scenery so far seen by us of the Australian bush. A cool breeze seems to blow continually in this part of Australia, and makes travelling very cool and pleasant.

We reached Brisbane about 11 at night. An enormous crowd of about 3,000 people had collected on the railway platform, to give the English visitors a welcome. With great difficulty the team were able to make their way from the car to the vehicles waiting to drive them to their destinations. Upon reaching the club, where we

had been put up by the special courtesy of the members of the Queensland Club, it was found that Stoddart had been relieved of his watch and chain. It was the beginning of that bad luck which pursued him during the tour. All efforts to trace the watch by the local police were unavailing, and the loss of this family relic, together with a presentation chain appendix presented by the Melbourne Cricket Club to him on his previous tour here, was sorely felt by the owner, owing to the happy associations and history attached to the articles.

Having spent a pleasant hour with the Mayor next morning at the Town Hall, and enjoyed the usual reception accorded to us at all the places we had visited so far, several of us indulged in short practices at the scene of our next match, which was to be against a team of thirteen players collected from New South Wales and Queensland. The practice wickets were not any too good, owing to the rough state of the out-field, where they were pitched, and so the players chiefly indulged in loosening their shoulders by short bursts of hitting.

The match commenced at noon the next day, and for the first time during the tour Stoddart won the toss, and felt strange. Our innings was opened by Wainwright and Mason, and a splendid start was inaugurated. Wainwright was first to get out, and it was in a curious way. The signal of the umpire was misunderstood by Mason, and he told his part-

ner that the umpire had given a boundary hit, and that he need not run. Wainwright thereupon walked to the wicket, and before he reached the crease the bowler had put the wicket down. It was an unfortunate error, as Wainwright was playing very well for the first time during the tour, and it was hard luck having to retire through no fault of his own. His partner was also to be sympathised with, as he misunderstood the signal for byes for a boundary hit; but in justice to him, it must be stated that in England the signal for boundary hit is exactly the same as that for byes in this country. Mason, after contributing an excellent 74, fell a victim to McKibbin, and I was then joined by Hayward. After contributing 67, an innings which I consider the best so far played by me in Australia, I succumbed, and Hayward, who was playing none too well, followed me soon after.

A great stand was made the next day by MacLaren and Druce, both of them running into three figures. It was particularly gratifying to us to see Druce get a hundred, inasmuch as it added another batsman to our side "in form" as it were. Hirst swelled the score with a hard-hit 75. Stoddart, like myself, fell a victim to the thirteenth man in the field. Briggs, Board, and Richardson did not offer much resistance to the bowlers' attack, the English innings closing for 636, the highest scoring so far made by us.

McKibbin captured five wickets for 158, he thus

being the most successful bowler; Burne coming next. C. T. B. Turner, who played for Queensland, obtained only one for 94. It must be acknowledged, however, that he had any amount of bad luck in not obtaining more wickets, for several catches were missed off him, and a great number of miss-hits accrued off his bowling. I, for one, consider, notwithstanding his lack of success, that he bowled by far and away the best among the colonial bowlers. I well recollect what a magnificent trundler he was in 1888, 1890, and 1893, when accompanying the Australian teams to England. It struck me that, owing to want of practice and lack of exercise, he had lost the sting and fire that was so characteristic of his arm; but none the less the graceful easy action and the natural head of a bowler are still his. The change of pace was still executed, and the deadly yorker was well in evidence as each new batsman walked to the wickets and confronted him. I firmly believe that if Turner had the necessary amount of practice in first-class cricket, he still would be the great bowler that he once was. I cannot, for one, see that the gap which has been occasioned in first-class cricket in Australia, through his absence, has been filled by any of the present day stars. The fielding of the combined thirteen was, on the whole, excellent. Iredale, Gregory, S. P. Jones, Macdonald, and Howell particularly distinguished themselves, and

the others all worked hard. In justice to those who made mistakes, however, it is only fair to state that the ground, which, by the way, is a new one, was in a very rough state.

The thirteen began their batting late on Saturday afternoon. They started badly, losing Dr. Macdonald's wicket for a cipher, he having cruel luck in being bowled off his pad. Iredale, Bradley, and Donahoo did not trouble us to any great extent. Iredale, as usual, played attractive cricket during his stay, and Donahoo made some hard hits in his 19. The first four wickets fell to Richardson. Gregory and Pye then made a fine stand, until Gregory was given out for obstructing. For the fourth time in a good match Hayward was the bowler to break a long partnership. Gregory's was an excellent innings, chiefly remarkable for beautiful cutting and placing in the slips. Pye and Jones then made another capital stand, contributing 55 and 69 respectively. Pye's was a distinctly good effort, and he is to be warmly congratulated on a good start in a good match. He has a number of strokes that are pleasing to watch on the off side, the most fruitful ones being a square cut, and a drive between the bowler and mid-off. In time he ought to develop into a very strong player.

S. P. Jones showed us what a fine player he still is. He started very cautiously, and with that lack of confidence which is the natural result of short

practice and want of success ; but after he warmed to his work, he made some excellent shots on both sides of the wicket, and all of us were highly delighted at his success. He still has a magnificent defence, with a variety of strokes for scoring purposes, his cutting and his leg play being particularly well-timed. He is one of the few batsmen in Australia who watches the ball as it should be watched, judging from the English cricket point of view. Turner was not a success with the bat, and his career was cut short by a brilliant piece of work by Stoddart. McKibbin and Richardson then played out time, Richardson contributing a useful score of 42.

The bowling honours on our side fell to Richardson, who bowled more like his true form in England in this match than in any other game during their visit. With no possible chance of concluding the match, several other bowlers were tried, and, curiously enough, Mason and Stoddart, two of the late changes, bowled remarkably well. The English fielding could only be regarded in this match as steady, it being never brilliant. MacLaren, Board, and Hirst, however, were exceptionally good. There were two things about this match that were regretted by everyone alike, both players and spectators. Firstly, by the introduction of thirteen players against us, the match was deprived of a first-class character, thus to a certain extent damping

PHOTO BY] [FOSTER & MARTIN.

MAJOR WARDILL.

PHOTO BY] [FOSTER & MARTIN.

MR. P. SHERIDAN.

THE MANAGERS OF THE TOUR.

J. PHILLIPS,
THE BRITISH UMPIRE.

PHOTO BY] [FALK, MELBOURNE.

A. BANNERMAN,
THE AUSTRALIAN UMPIRE.

THE UMPIRES.

our keenness; and secondly, the fixture was limited to three days, during which time it was impossible to bring the match to a definite conclusion, unless by the aid of bad weather. The attendances during the match were exceedingly good, and the arrangements, as on the principal grounds where we had played so far, admirable. The Brisbane ground, will, in time, be one of the best in the colonies. The wicket part already is as good as there is in the country, and with care and time the fielding portions of the ground, at present so rough and short of turf, will be in the same excellent condition as the Melbourne and Sydney enclosures.

On the Sunday during our stay in Brisbane we were taken out in the Government yacht for a trip down Moreton Bay, as the guests of Sir Horace Tozer—a trip that was sadly interfered with by exceptionally strong wind and rough weather. I was unfortunate enough to contract a nasty chill, which seriously affected my health for the next three weeks. The weather turned out in the end so unpropitious, that we journeyed back as quickly as possible to our comfortable quarters at the club. We all appreciated the hospitality of the club authorities very much in granting us the privilege to stay at their premises, and thus, in no small measure, making our visit to Brisbane very comfortable.

His Excellency the Governor, Lord Lamington, honoured us by having us at Government House

one evening. On the Saturday of our visit I had the further pleasure of visiting the golf links with His Excellency, and had a very pleasant game with him. We played nine holes up, and it is needless to say that His Excellency won easily, the only hole I had a look in being the first one, which we halved. As is usually the case with a bad golfer, I seemed to go and stick into every difficulty that presented itself in the course, whereas the Governor just got over each one of them. Lord Lamington is an exceptionally fine driver at golf, and I felt quite pleased when I found that I could rival him to some extent in using the cleek.

Brisbane is rather a pretty place, and reminds one of the tropics a great deal. The vegetation, plantations, and gardens are much richer than in any other part of Australia, and it was quite a relief to find a variety of trees, the relief from the dull monotony of the inevitable gum-tree being very pleasing.

CHAPTER VI.

THE FIRST TEST MATCH.

THE team left for Sydney on Monday, the 6th. I was obliged to stay behind on account of ill-health, having been laid up since the Toowoomba match with a severe attack of quinsy. There was great cause for disappointment to us, as well as to the chosen representatives of Australia at the wet weather that had set in since the beginning of the week at Sydney, inasmuch as it interfered sadly with the practice of the rival teams.

The great match, the first of the series of test matches to be played between the two countries, was fixed to commence on Friday, the 10th, but the weather on Thursday did not look as if it would permit the match to commence on the day appointed, and on that day the Sydney Trustees, by an unfortunate error, trespassed on the rights of others, and committed a violation of the laws of cricket by deciding to pospone the match until Saturday morn-

ing. The postponement, it was argued on their behalf, was for public benefit. There has been so much matter written on the subject that it is not necessary to say much, but I feel certain that if the trustees, after committing this error, had acknowledged the same, there would not have been any trouble in the matter at all, and it would have saved the public from reading any amount of criticism, both for and against, that was totally wide of the point in issue.

Friday came, and there would have been but little play on that day even if the postponement had not been announced. At the end of the day the weather was equally threatening, and many people rightly argued that, for the sake of consistency, it would have been better for the trustees to have announced another postponement, also for the sake of the public benefit, and also for diminishing the element of chance, as far as possible. This latter, by the way, was another argument advanced for the postponement on Friday, but the argument would have been to some extent true of a postponement on Saturday. Again, however, the game was destined not to commence until the following Monday. The weather on Saturday was exceedingly inclement, being both windy, dull, and pouring wet. The clouds broke up on Sunday, and a hot sun and strong wind were instrumental in drying the pitch for the contest on Monday.

The Australian side picked by the Selection Committee were as follows :—

Victoria.—Captain, Trott ; Trumble, McLeod. New South Wales.—Iredale, Gregory, McKibbin, Kelly. South Australia.—Darling, Hill, Jones, Lyons.

The English team finally decided upon was—

Captain, MacLaren ; Druce, Mason, Wainwright, Hirst, Hearne, Hayward, Briggs, Storer, Richardson, and myself.

One looked in vain in the list of the English team for the name of Andrew Ernest Stoddart, for a gloom was cast over our team by the receipt of a cable from Home, on Wednesday after the arrival in Sydney, announcing the sad death of the mother of our worthy skipper. The news filled him with intense grief, and he was unfortunately very ill for days after. We all shared his grief, and the cricketing circle in Australia fully sympathised in our captain's sad bereavement. It was a great blow to our side to have to take the field weakened, as it was, by his absence.

On the colonial side George Giffen was selected to play, but having decided not to accept the invitation, C. McLeod, who was selected as the twelfth man, was finally put in his place.

MacLaren acted as our captain, and auspiciously began his duties by winning the toss. The English team won the spin of the coin for the first time in the colonies in a first-class match. The wicket had

dried completely, and the ground looked in magnificent order, being fresh, green, and soft after the recent heavy rain. The English captain elected to bat, and the Australians, in their beautiful light blue colours, took the field. Out of respect to Stoddart, each one of our opponents, with that kindly and sympathetic feeling which Australian players have always shown towards their English opponents, in all these friendly contests, wore black crape on their sleeves. The English players, it is needless to say, did the same. The appearance of the chosen representatives of Australia in the field was exceedingly smart, and they looked as if they had determined to uphold the honour of their country worthily.

MacLaren and Mason opened our batting, and the bowling was entrusted by Trott to McKibbin and Jones. None too good a start was made, as after a few runs had been notched Jones successfully broke through Mason's defence, the latter for the third time in succession playing a single figure innings on the Sydney ground.

"Tom" Hayward and MacLaren then commenced a long and fruitful partnership. The play of both was sound and determined, and at times brilliant. It is needless to say that MacLaren since his return to form in the New South Wales match, played with all his wonted ability. The late cutting, the various off-drives, hooking of the short balls, and

the glances off balls just outside the leg stump were made with great dexterity. His coolness was marvellous, and it was clear to everybody that he meant to make a great effort—an effort worthy of the occasion. It was delightful to see Tom Hayward, for the first time during the tour, play the game which is natural to him, which has made his name and popularity in England. He started cautiously, nay, almost nervously; nervousness, no doubt, resulting from his failures in the earlier matches; but after the first dozen runs or so he warmed to his work, and gave the Australian public a glimpse of his true form and beautiful style. Tom Hayward has a very happy knack of coming off at a time when it is essential to his side that he should do well. His batting was replete with off-drives of various descriptions, his cutting was hard and full of wrist work, and the calm and collected way he played the bowling, with the ease and finish which marks his style, must have caused, in conjunction with MacLaren's marvellous display, many an anxious moment to the opposing captain and bowlers. Each one of these players looked certain for their centuries, but it was destined not to be so; for Hayward, who was going strong and brilliantly, was tempted by Trumble to repeat another of his famous cover drives off a ball rather wide for a batsman to venture, and one that was going away from him after pitching, and was well caught by point. His

contribution of 72 was a very fine innings. Storer, owing to his wonderful form in the last three matches against the three colonies, was given a well deserved lift in the order of going in, but, curiously enough, in this effort, he did not show the same mastery over his strokes as in his previous performances. However, while he was with MacLaren he was fortunate enough to evade the vigilance of the field more through good luck than through good judgment.

All this time MacLaren had been playing a great game for his side. Ten years ago nearly it was that I saw the finest innings played in cricket that it has been my good fortune to witness, and the Australian public will be both delighted and surprised to hear that it was by C. T. B. Turner, the great Australian bowler. It was in the year 1888, when the Australians were playing Surrey for the first time that year on the Oval. I well remember the match and that particular treat of batting. It was at once the most brilliant and soundest effort of pure, scientific cricket I had seen up to Monday, December 13, 1897. Turner's cutting, driving, and execution of every stroke against Lohmann, Beaumont, Bowler, Read, and Roller, was an education to every grade of cricketer.

Well, I frankly confess that MacLaren delighted me with this latest performance of his to the same extent. His play was wonderful, and I can afford

him no greater praise than by classing this 109 of his with that superb innings of Turner's against the then greatest of English bowlers. It was gratifying, also, to our side to find that MacLaren put up another record for the Sydney ground by contributing his third successive hundred on the same field. The partnership of Storer and Druce was not of long duration, Druce, like MacLaren, falling a victim to the wiles of McLeod. Druce's 20 contained some excellent strokes, but, on the whole, his innings was not worthy of the brilliant batsman that he is. It is quite clear that he has not yet struck his true form. Storer did not survive long after Hirst joined him, a catch and bowl by Trott dismissing him. His contribution, though useful, lacked that confidence and force and variety which generally accompany his batting. He gave one the idea of being short of practice, and there is much truth in this, for since the New South Wales match his only efforts, at long intervals, have been in two up-country matches on matting pitches.

At five o'clock MacLaren decided to put me in with Hirst. I may here mention that after I partially recovered from my attack of quinsy I returned to Sydney from Armidale on Thursday, and if the match had been played on either Friday or Saturday my weak physical condition would have precluded me from being included in the team, but, owing to the game not commencing till Monday through bad

weather, it was decided at the last minute that I should take part in the contest. I was much delighted at my good fortune on MacLaren deciding to include me in the team. Hirst and I staved off further disaster on Monday by stopping in until six, adding over 70 runs. Hirst played beautiful cricket, and his strokes were full of vigour. My play was in direct contrast to his, inasmuch as, being easily exhausted, at no time did the strokes that yielded me runs possess any vim or force, and nearly all the drives that were not much out of reach of the fieldsmen caused them little trouble in stopping them. Hirst hit a magnificent five off Trumble over the rails. The English total for the first day reached over 300 for the loss of five wickets.

On resuming operations the next day, Hirst added 25 to his over-night score, and then, misjudging a fast ball from Jones, was beaten by it. He had played sound and vigorous cricket without a flaw for 62. It is astonishing how often Hirst comes off on great occasions. His success for Yorkshire time after time, after the failure of the first few batsmen, has been during the last couple of years phemonenal. There can be no doubt that he is a man possessed of much nerve, determination, and skill. Wainwright only added 10 to our total, but he had bad luck in cutting one of Jones' short deliveries on the off side on to his wicket. He has not yet broken his spell of ill-luck, as he seems to

get out in a manner that suggests indifferent luck rather than bad play. In his small compilation he made a grand off drive off Jones, a stroke which, if not the best of the day, was clearly as good as any. The timing of it was perfection itself, and the rapidity with which it travelled to the cycle track was something like the run of a streak of lightning.

Hearne once again demonstrated that he could bat whenever it was necessary that he should seriously attempt to do so. His 17 was really a meritorious innings, and he and I must have put on between 40 and 50 runs, which clearly indicate a useful partnership at this stage of the game. Briggs' play has not been of late of a successful nature, in fact, he seems unable to get many runs, and he does not give the impression of being able to make any. After receiving four of Jones' deliveries on his legs, he managed to compile one with the assistance of his bat and legs. As usual, however, he got out in a way quite characteristic of Johnnie Briggs, for, after touching a ball as he scraped forward to one of McLeod's deliveries, he danced about a bit outside his crease, while the ball, rebounding from Kelly's pads, hit the wicket, and on appeal being made Briggs had to retire, the score when he left being 477. It speaks volumes for Tom Richardson's coolness and resolution when I say that he carried out his bat with quite a capital score of 24. He is not considered a bat, and

mostly justifies this idea. On this occasion, however, he was equal to the emergency, and was instrumental by his batting in enabling the partnership to add no less than 74 for the last wicket.

I was the last person on our side to get out, and had the good fortune to augment the score for my side to the extent of 175. It was a capital idea of MacLaren's to put me in late, thus giving me a chance, to some extent, of recruiting my strength. The chief merit of my innings, however, apart from its usefulness, was the patience I displayed in keeping up my wicket. The total amounted to 551, and there were two records made during the innings. One was that my score of 175 was the highest made for England in a representative match against Australia, and the other was that the total of our side was also the highest ever made by an English side against Australia in a test match. I am also right in saying that Tom Richardson made a record for himself by making 24 in a test match.

We must now turn to the Australian out-cricket, and examine critically their bowling, fielding, and their work generally. The hardest work in bowling fell to Jones and Trumble, McKibbin, McLeod, and Trott coming after them; but I cannot help thinking that McLeod bowled the best, and in this instance the figures justified his obtaining the place of honour amongst the Australian bowlers. His bowling on the first day was excellent in

every respect, and it was particularly gratifiying to me, after the opinion I had expressed as to his ability as a bowler. It was a surprise to me when we met him at Melbourne why he was not more successful with the ball. He always kept an admirable length, changed his pitch and pace with excellent judgment, and was always deceptive in his flight. The off-break which he in all probability has on a damaged wicket could not be brought off on the perfect wicket that we had. But still he made the ball come off the pitch occasionally very quickly, and although he obtained only three wickets he might have, with the luck which he deserved, easily captured five wickets; in fact, it was decidedly a piece of bad luck that Briggs' wicket was not accorded to him, for, morally, it was clearly his.

Jones comes next in order of merit. He bowled at a great pace all the time he was on, and showed great command over his pitch. Trumble, McKibbin, and Trott, all obtained a wicket each, and they bowled excellently in their own particular way and style. Trumble was not quite so full of "devil" and precise in his length as at Melbourne, but still he showed great command over the ball, and tried many a dodge by altering his pace, by tempting the batsmen to hit at wide balls, by changing the elevation of the ball, and by all the other subtle arts of the bowler likely to reap success.

McKibbin was the only bowler who made the ball turn occasionally, and I must add that in the morning of the first day he bowled remarkably well, although not meeting with his deserts. How often it happens that a bowler obtains no wickets when he is bowling really well! This was the case with McKibbin in this instance. I have a suspicion that McKibbin sacrifices occasionally a good deal of his length in attempting too large a break. He shows but little command over his leg break, but as a set-off to that his leg break when bowled in that peculiar way of his, is most deceptive to the majority of batsmen, who cannot tell if it is a leg break or not, and no doubt it is partly owing to his change of delivery, caused by the turn of the wrist in a roundish manner in attempting this break, that he causes batsmen to play at it in two minds, a proceeding that frequently obtains for him wickets with his leg breaks. Trott bowled well, but the pace of the wicket was easy, and hence his curly slows did not possess any fire, and he was, as a rule, easy to negotiate.

The fielding of the Australians was particularly smart ; indeed, it was a hard thing to pick out who was the best ; there was no weak spot in the team. Perhaps Lyons would be regarded only good amongst such a brilliant lot. Trott at point was most attentive, and very rarely allowed a ball to pass

him. Jones at mid-off, and Gregory at cover, were always brilliant, safe, and unsurpassed. Iredale and Darling in the out-field were very safe, and the others, although not getting much work, did remarkably well when an opportunity presented itself to them. The hardest work of all, however, was done by Kelly, the wicket-keeper, who kept wickets in a way that could not be rivalled, perhaps, by any wicket-keeper of the present day. He was as sound as a rock, his taking of balls on the leg side off all bowlers, and particularly off Jones, was so well timed and clean that he fully earned the oft-repeated applause that was dealt out to him. It was indeed a wonderful performance for him not to have allowed a single bye in an innings of 551. It was just as well that the majority of English batsmen did not give him a chance to cut their career short.

One word more, and that is about the captaincy. Once again Trott clearly demonstrated what a great captain he is. He handled the Australian bowling with wonderful capacity. He always made the changes at the right moment, and kept an eye on all the fields during the progress of the English innings. He is most indefatigable, and it was no fault of Trott's that the English side ran up a score of over 500.

On the termination of the English innings in the afternoon of the second day, the Australians batted

with Darling and Lyons as the first pair. A most disastrous start was made, inasmuch as with eight runs on the board Darling was neatly caught by Druce at slip, and the bad start was continued, for, after Iredale had joined Lyons, the latter was bowled by a slow yorker from Richardson, the ball striking the bottom of the stumps. The partnership of Iredale and Hill was productive of a few runs. Iredale started with confidence, and made four excellent strokes, all of which reached the boundary, but at last, losing patience, he got out to Hearne in attempting a huge "on" hit. Hill was the next to leave after contributing 18. At no time did he look as being in form. What a contrast it was to the innings he played at Adelaide, which was so full of confidence and merit in every way! All the time he was at the wickets he was undecided, and failed to time the ball. He succumbed ultimately to a fine ball from Hearne. Trott and Gregory then made a slow but short stand. We were anxious to get rid of one of these, for we know that Gregory and Trott have often and often proved stumbling blocks to the English side, both in this country and at Home. In the last over of the day, however, Trott had the misfortune to play a ball from Briggs on to his wicket. It was cruel luck to have got out in a match of this description the way he did. The ball, after he played it, touched his leg, and glanced on to his wicket. The great batsmen of the Australian

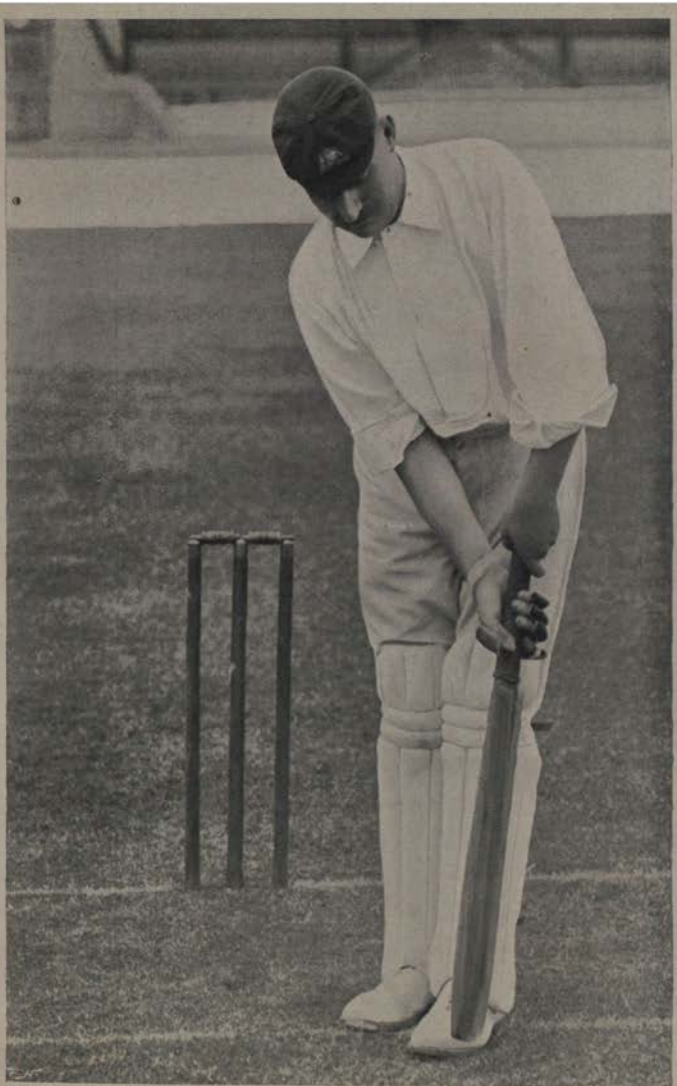

PHOTO BY] HARRY TROTT. [FALK, MELBOURNE.

team gave a disappointing show on Tuesday, and the English team were equally gratified and surprised at the success of their endeavours, for it was no mean performance to have got rid of five such great players on such a wicket for 86.

Next day, on account of the injury to McLeod's finger, which was split the previous day trying to stop a hard return, Kelly joined Gregory, McLeod being reserved for a later period. Kelly's stay at the wickets was not of long duration, he playing a yorker off Richardson on to his wicket. Trumble then joined Gregory, and at once began to play a clean and confident game. His partnership with Gregory, however, did not last long, as on Hearne going to bowl for Richardson, he had Gregory caught at slip off him in his initial over. Gregory's contribution of 43 was the first score over 40, and was instrumental in stopping the rot that had set in among the earlier batsmen. He played a very cool game at a critical period, and once more showed his value to the team by rising to the occasion. Gregory, more than any other man on the Australian side during the last eight years, has been instrumental in stopping rots. There can be no doubt that he is a very plucky and clever bat.

After Gregory's dismissal, McLeod took the field, and from the way in which he was playing it was very evident that his split finger was troubling him a great deal. However, he toiled on in a persever-

ing and plucky manner, and manfully kept up his end. All the time while McLeod was batting cautiously and adding a run occasionally to the score, Trumble was playing a strong game, the chief feature of which was his splendid off driving. What a cool customer Trumble is! From first to last he never seemed in a hurry or bustle or anxiety. He looked almost certain for a hundred when, by a clever manœuvre of the English captain, putting on Mason, he was caught at the wicket, after contributing a most valuable and hard-hit 70. There was any amount of vigour in his batting, and during the whole time he was at the wickets, he hardly made a weak or flukey hit. There can be no doubt that but for him the Australian total in the first innings would have been very insignificant. Trumble is a very under-rated batsman in Australia. I, personally, always held his batting in high esteem, having had the pleasure of seeing him play several high-class innings, including a lovely 112 he made in England in that record score of the Australians. McLeod all this time had been batting patiently and well, considering the circumstances, and the disadvantages under which he laboured. McLeod's play is good on both sides of the wicket, and his defence is exceedingly difficult to break through. He carried out his bat for a contribution of 50. Jones and McKibbin both fell victims to Hearne without either of them adding a run to the Australian total.

Following on a minority of 314, with a defeat staring them in the face, the Australian innings was commenced by Darling and Iredale. The play at the start was exceedingly slow, both batsmen acting strictly on the defensive, but a great contrast was noticeable in the confidence of the two players; Darling showing a dogged determination; Iredale, on the other hand, though adopting the same cautious method, was vacillating and undecided in his strokes, and from the way in which he was shaping we were not surprised that he was got rid of cheaply for 18. For a batsman who had played so well in each of his innings against us so far he appeared, strange to say, very nervous. McLeod followed Iredale, having obtained a well-merited lift in the order of going in. It was a decidedly wise plan on the part of the Australian captain to send him in early, on account of his strong defence which we found so difficult to pierce through in the first innings. The scoring, however, was very slow all throughout, and it was only during the last half-hour that Darling, gradually warming to his work, quickened the pace of run-getting. Neither batsman, however, looked like getting out, and there can be no doubt but that their determination to tire the English bowling went a long way in giving their side a good start. Both batsmen at the end of the day's play were unbeaten, Darling with a not-out 80 to his credit, and McLeod with about 20.

They commenced batting the next day, and once again adopted quiet and defensive play, which they had found to be instrumental in weakening the bowling on the previous day. It took Darling an hour and a quarter to complete his 100 runs, that is to say, to add 20 runs to his over-night's score. He was at length tempted by Briggs to have a hit at a slow well-pitched-up ball, which he safely landed into Druce's hands at "long off," Druce making a well-judged catch. It was a great relief to the English team to see his back. He had played a great game for his side, and to him must be given the chief credit of breaking the English bowling. He paved the way for the others who followed him, having taken the sting and deadliness out of the bowling by his patient methods. The feature of his batting was his grand off-driving and cutting, apart from his strong defence, and now and then he indulged in a strong "on" drive off Briggs or Hearne. All the fours he obtained were by the aid of clean hits, most of them along the ground, and travelling with great rapidity. Darling can be a fine hitter if he chooses, and he often indulges in bursts of brilliant play when the occasion demands it.

Before Darling's dismissal, however, McLeod was unfortunately run out in a singular way. The incident began by Richardson bowling him off a no-ball; the full pitch, after hitting the wickets, travelled to short slip; the batsman, meanwhile, not

hearing the call of the umpire, left his wicket and was walking away to the pavilion. The ball being smartly fielded by slip, was thrown to the wicket-keeper, who, seeing the batsman out of his ground pulled up a stump and appealed for a run-out, the umpire answering the appeal against the batsman. This incident gave rise to a great deal of excitement, argument, and talk all round the ground, but, as usual, the majority of the critics harped on a point that had no bearing on the question. The great point was—was the ball dead or not at the time the man was out of his ground, and the stump pulled up? If dead, the man was not out; if otherwise, the decision of the umpire was the right one. In this case the ball was in play the whole time, and therefore the decision given was the only possible one. The English team came in for much abuse, owing to what the public consider this unfair play and unsportsmanlike conduct in taking advantage of a batsman's mistake. It is needless to say that such criticisms came from persons who might do well to study the game more closely. Our opponents, the players, upheld our action.

The partnership of Hill and Gregory was another useful one in swelling the score in the second innings, but here again it was ended by a lamentably weak piece of judgment on the part of the South Australian player. It is astonishing how players in this country are fond of short runs, and they seem

to ignore the consequent risk of such proceedings. Many short runs were obtained by the two players, and it was clear that sooner or later one of them would fall a victim to the alertness of the fielding. After the players had added close upon 70 runs by good, sound, and quick play, Gregory hit a ball to third man, the ball travelling at a good pace. Hill ran towards his partner's wicket without noticing whether the fieldsman had picked up the ball clean or not. Gregory, seeing the hopelessness of Hill's position in returning back to the vacated crease, in the most generous fashion, and for the benefit of his side, sacrificed his wicket by taking the risk of the run out on himself. Hearne, by a magnificent shot, threw the opposite wicket down, and Gregory's wicket was thus foolishly thrown away. I have noticed this generous trait in this brilliant young player often, and it seems almost a pity for him to still adhere to his fondness for short runs. His unselfishness is an example to all cricketers. In this instance, knowing that Hill was better set than himself, and also realising that he was playing a more confident game as well, he deliberately left his crease, knowing that his own chances were more in favour of his retiring to the pavilion thrown out, than of his getting home. He again played a useful innings of 31.

Trumble, the hero of the first innings, now came in, but we felt relieved when, after scoring two, he

was cleverly caught low down in the slips. Lyons started in a more promising manner than in the first innings. He quickly contributed 25, and then, having attempted to hit at a wide ball from Hearne, was easily caught by third man. Hill all this time had been playing well, and causing us any amount of trouble and running. His defence, like that of Darling's, seemed impregnable, and the bowlers showed no great relish for the left-hander. Time after time, in justice to them, however, I must add, they made him play at their off balls, which he did not luckily touch, inasmuch as he several times got under them, trying to make a slash and a cut. Before Trott had made many runs, Hearne found a way to Hill's wicket when his score stood at 96. His contribution was in every way worthy of the great player he is. It was a finer innings than his 200 at Adelaide, inasmuch as our bowling was far more difficult to get runs off ; our fielding was also much better than at Adelaide, and the importance of the match, which generally tries the nerves of a player on these big occasions, strung to a high tension as they are, had to be taken into consideration. He came off with success at a time when making runs and keeping up the end were necessary to the interests of his side. His off-driving and cutting were very pretty to watch, and his "on" play was as strong as ever, although he got very few opportunities of scoring on the "on" side,

thanks to the accuracy of our bowling. Our bowlers worked the "off" theory at him after having had a bitter lesson at Adelaide. At no time in his innings did he look like getting out, starting with the same confidence he displayed in our first match. He scored his runs in this innings quicker than almost any other man on his side.

Trott and Kelly added a good few runs to the score, when Trott, who had not been playing well for the class of player that he undoubtedly is, was bowled by Richardson, who obtained his first wicket in this innings. Kelly, on the other hand, carried out his bat for a splendid innings of 46. Any amount of good "off" strokes were noticeable in his display; indeed, he made a very plucky effort at the end to augment the score of his side, and he played with as much confidence as any other man in the Home team. The soundness and quality of his batting surprised both teams, and he unquestionably proved the value of his services to his side. McKibbin and Jones, for the second time, did not materially add to the score.

The innings closed for 408, leaving the English team 95 runs to obtain in their second venture. Before coming to the concluding stage, a review of the English bowling and out-work during both the Australian innings will not be out of place here. The English bowling on Tuesday afternoon was undoubtedly at its best. All the bowlers, Richardson,

Hearne, Hirst, and Briggs, bowled with precision, steadiness, and sting. Richardson started by getting his first two wickets, and he ought to have obtained another if a rather difficult chance had been accepted off him, which would have got rid of Hill under double figures. Hearne then obtained the next two, and Briggs a single the same afternoon, five of the best Australian batsmen succumbing to our attack for 86 on one of the best wickets imaginable. Our bowling at no other period of the match reached the same high standard of excellence.

The next day Richardson obtained another wicket, Hearne three more, and Mason, in his initial over, effected a much-desired change. Hearne's performance in obtaining five wickets for 42 must be regarded as a great one, particularly against the quality of batsmen that were opposed to him on a hard and true pitch. Richardson's bowling, though not in his best form, was still exceedingly good. He seemed to bowl in patches—that is to say, he bowled well for a few overs and indifferently afterwards. Hirst was unlucky in not obtaining a wicket. He had extraordinary bad luck, for he bowled, with the exception of Hearne, as well as any other man on the side. He had plenty of vim and fire in his deliveries all through the first innings, and he beat the batsmen a great many times. He ought to have had Hill's wicket, but Storer, appealing for what he considered a most palpable catch at the wicket, let

off stumping him when he was well outside his crease. Briggs also bowled better than he had done so far in the other matches, and he had bad luck in having two chances missed at the wicket. I felt sure Mason ought to be utilised by our side more than he was. I consider that the great height from which he delivers the ball, as in the case of Trumble, makes him a deceptive bowler, and his coming quick off the pitch, together with his clever manipulation of changing the pace, tend to make him more than a useful change bowler.

The English fielding throughout the progress of the innings was good, the exception, curiously enough, being our wicket-keeper. So far in the match he had shown but poor form for him ; for, both in his batting and in his wicket-keeping, he fell far below his proper form. The weakness of the wicket-keeping was, however, in a great measure due to the fact of his having his thumb injured in the early part of the Australian first innings. MacLaren, Hirst, and Druce, all fielded capitally ; Briggs, also, was very fine, and the others did their work whenever an opportunity presented itself, admirably. In the second innings Richardson and Hearne again started the bowling. Richardson had bad luck in not obtaining wickets that afternoon, and on Wednesday. He bowled at a great pace, and, for a time, kept an admirable length ; in fact, at the beginning of both innings of the Australian

players he bowled admirably, but afterwards, in both cases, seemed to lose control of his length, pitching the ball far too near the batsmen.

The first two wickets in the second innings were obtained by Briggs, who, though bowling many loose balls, yet now and then bowled with all his old cunning. Hearne obtained the next three wickets, Richardson the next two, and Hearne finished up his grand bowling performance in the match by obtaining the last. He again obtained the best average by getting rid of four batsmen for 99. His bowling made the batsmen play at him all the time. His bowling was never loose, but always precise, and, occasionally, he made the ball turn on that excellent wicket. It is a great triumph for him to have done so well at the first call in a great match in this country. Richardson and Briggs both obtained two wickets apiece. Richardson's bowling was not quite so good as in the first innings, for, though bowling at a great pace, backed up by a strong wind, he lacked accuracy of pitch. What a magnificent bowler he must be, for, though bowling by no means in his true form, he obtained five wickets, and beat the batsmen many a time. And as usual, also, a good many runs were obtained off his bowling by inevitable snicks between the wicket and the batsman's legs. Briggs' form at bowling is quite encouraging, his improved health, no doubt, being mainly accountable for this. Hirst, though

not bowling quite as well as in the first innings, still had bad luck in not obtaining a single wicket. Hayward was not utilised very much, but it was partly owing to the fact of his having a sore knee from one of Jones' deliveries.

The fielding of the team, notwithstanding the long spell, and the tiring work of the two days, never slacked in the slightest degree. It was always admirable, and for once in a way it was quite pleasant to note that the English fielding was not inferior to the Australian. Where everyone did so well it would be hard to give praise to any individual member, but still MacLaren, Hirst, and Druce, who got most of the work, again did remarkably well. Hayward, Briggs, and Wainwright were very safe, and rarely failed to stop the hardest drives and cuts. Storer, it was evident, was in great pain in keeping the wickets to the fast deliveries of Richardson, Hirst, and Hearne, owing to his injured thumb, but he still stuck manfully to his work, and in the two knocks gave very few extras away, and it is not to be wondered at that his catching was at fault. No doubt the long rest which he had between this match and the New South Wales match had a good deal to do with his being slightly out of form, for it made his batting weak, and his hands soft. I feel sure a long rest does more harm to a player who has been in form, than good, and an extra amount of work during our up-country matches to Richard-

son, also, would have done him no harm. The danger of bowling him on matting wickets, on which we had to play most of our up-country matches, made it necessary not to give him spells of bowling, on account of the danger attached both to the players against him from the fiery state of the wicket, and also from the risk he would run of straining himself on the cocoanut matting, coming at the pace he does after delivery.

On Friday morning, the Englishmen, thanks to a magnificent stand by Mason and MacLaren, won the match by nine wickets. Mason having been bowled at 80, MacLaren finished off the game after I had joined him by hitting two fours in succession. His innings of 50 was again well worthy of him, being as vigorous, brilliant, and safe, as all his contributions generally are. McKibbin got the single wicket that fell. Jones and Trumble also both bowled well, and kept an admirable length. It is not surprising for Trumble, who is a medium-pace bowler, to keep a good length, but throughout the match Jones kept astonishing length for a fast bowler. He very seldom pitches a ball well up for a batsman to drive, and he also bowls very few balls on the "on" side. There can be no doubt that he is a greatly improved bowler since his return from England. He occasionally puts in a much slower ball to take the batsman in. This development is the outcome, no doubt, of experience.

It is also pleasing for me to add that during the match his delivery was quite fair, and makes me belive that his transgression at Adelaide was as accidental as it was unintentional. I feel sure that the unfair action he made use of in that particular match was the result of trying to bowl at a greater pace than was natural to him, for, in trying to get greater pace in his deliveries, he made use of elbow-work. I sincerely trust that he will strictly adhere to this style, which paid him so well in the Old Country, and made him so difficult to get runs off in this particular match. In fact, he had decidedly hard luck in not obtaining more wickets. His length was far more reliable than it was at Adelaide, where, in attempting the extra pace, his length and direction were undoubtedly erratic, as was evinced by the fact that although our team was in poor health and out of form, the majority of the players were able to score a great many runs off him, notwithstanding his extra pace.

In summing up the match, there can be no doubt that the English team won it by their batting performance against the picked bowlers of Australia, and in a great measure, also, through our success in bowling the second afternoon. The Australians, though failing in their first attempt with the willow, made a great effort in their second, and worthily upheld the reputation they have of playing a plucky up-hill game. They showed a determination to work hard

right up to the last ball of the match, and though their efforts were not rewarded with victory, they fought well and honourably for the honour of Australian cricket. Their fielding was as safe as ever, and some, notably Jones, Gregory, and Kelly, were exceptionally brilliant; indeed, their wicket-keeping in this particular match was far in front of ours, and was certainly one of the features of the match. Their bowling was every bit as good as ours, though none of the bowlers had the good fortune to achieve the same amount of success that fell to Hearne. It speaks volumes for the excellent batting on either side, and I trust I shall be regarded as saying this in no sense of partiality to the English players, that very few balls were "snicked" during the whole of the match in the slips. Indeed, it is an interesting fact that no English player, with the single exception of MacLaren, was caught behind the wickets, and the same applies, though not perhaps to the same extent, to the Australian batsmen.

The keenness of the players on both sides was most manifest in all the departments of the game. The running of the men after the ball right up to the cycle track with all the speed they could command, and sometimes well knowing the danger they were running by going near the cycle track, was a signal proof of their resolution to try their hardest. The players, one and all, strove hard to outdo one another in their efforts for their sides.

The captaincy on either side showed wonderful power and capacity. Trott is, of course, a recognised great captain, but it was pleasing to note that MacLaren, for so young a player, proved a match for his great opponent, and the English team can now boast, if need be—an emergency, however, which we all sincerely hope will never occur again—of two captains that can hold their own against any in the world.

The best batting in the match was undoubtedly shown by MacLaren, who played two great innings of 109 and 50 not out in the match. The best bowling performance was also on the side of the Englishmen, viz., that of Hearne's nine wickets for 141 runs, There were five other displays of batting which, though falling short in merit to that of MacLaren in brilliance, were nevertheless of a class that can be ranked in the highest class of excellence, and, taking them in their numerical order, they are as follows: Darling's 109, Hill's 96, Hayward's 72, Trumble's 70, and Hirst's 62. In the same class must also be put the 76 for once out by McLeod, and a not-out innings of 46 by Kelly. The best all-round performance in the match fell to the lot of McLeod. He obtained three wickets for 80 runs, and deserved to have obtained more; further, he batted well and successfully in both the chances he had, and we were all sorry for the unfortunate way he got out.

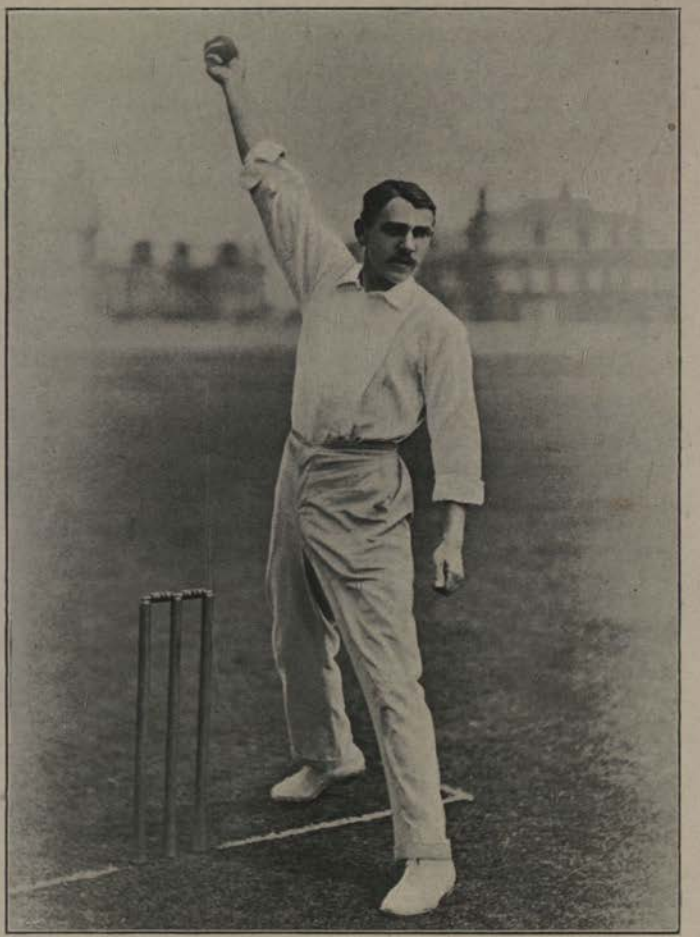

PHOTO BY] J. T. HEARNE. [HAWKINS, BRIGHTON.

The wicket, it is pleasing to note, was sound from first to last. The luck of the game, however, what ittle there was, undoubtedly was on the side of the English, and they certainly made the most of it. The winning of the toss was itself an important factor, inasmuch as it gave the men an opportunity of batting while fresh. Then they had the good fortune on Tuesday afternoon to get rid of five of the best players for 86, a good fortune that they richly deserved for their exceptionally good bowling, and smart work in the field. It must be admitted, however, that the display of the Australian batsmen was feeble on Tuesday. The two run-outs in the second of Australia's innings were very welcome to the Englishmen, and that in itself was another piece of luck for the visitors. The one solitary piece of good luck that fell to the Australians was that they were able to take advantage of the follow-on, after their indifferent first innings, and they undoubtedly made the most of their second opportunity.

In conclusion, there can be no doubt that the side which showed the best all-round cricket in the match was rewarded with victory, and it must be frankly acknowledged also that the magnificent side that represented Australia came out of their trying ordeal with no disgrace, but with great credit. The attendances on the first four days were excellent, and the ground presented an animated appearance during the match.

On the Saturday following the match the team went to the Randwick racecourse to witness some racing under the rules of the Australian Jockey Club. They were kindly invited by the A.J.C. The course is as magnificent as the one at Flemington, but the appointments and the necessary fittings of the course are hardly as striking or finished. Being an off-day, of course, the attendance compared very unfavourably with the Melbourne Cup week at Flemington, but still the few people there were showed the same enthusiasm for the sport as those in Victoria. A thoroughly enjoyable day's sport was witnessed, and enjoyed.

CHAPTER VII.

THE SECOND TEST MATCH.

THE English team in the best of spirits, after their well-earned victory in the first Test Match, travelled down to Melbourne from Sydney on their way to the Gippsland Lakes for a week's Christmas holiday. The journey from Sydney to Melbourne was uneventful but pleasant. After stopping a day at Melbourne the players journeyed to Sale, and from thence, in a boat through the Lakes Wellington, Victoria, and King, and reached their destination at the Kalimna Hotel, Cunningham, late in the evening. The three lakes through which we passed, as well as the river La-Trobe, which we sailed across in the initial part of the journey, were very beautiful, and were alive with wild fowl of all descriptions. The majority of the members of the team indulged in both gun and rifle shooting from the boat. Many interesting views were taken by those members given to photography. The Kalimna Hotel is a pleasant spot, beautifully situated at the top of a hill, commanding a lovely

view all around, and a broad expanse of the Southern Ocean is clearly visible in the near distance.

The next day we divided ourselves into two parties —one to go out for duck-shooting, as the season had then commenced for that branch of sport, and the other for fishing. The shooting party was first landed on a small island opposite the Scarborough Hotel, the fishermen going on a few miles further to try their luck. Those of the team that took to the gun were Wainwright, Hearne, Richardson, Briggs, Board, Druce, and myself, with the veteran, Jim Phillips, to take some snapshots. We had, moreover, the pleasure of having with us Mr. Dunn, a prominent member of the M.C.C., and Hugh Trumble, the Victorian bowler. The guide asked us to divide ourselves into two parties in order to occupy different spots round two lagoons, which were in close proximity, so that the game should be driven from one lagoon to another, with a view to enable the guns to get excellent high shots. After waiting patiently for two hours under a broiling hot sun, with insects and flies worrying one until it was almost unbearable, the party with which I was out wisely decided to take shelter in the verandah of a small cottage that was adjoining the swamp, particularly as there was no remote prospect of having a shot at wild duck, as there were none to be seen. Nor did we expect any ducks to arrive from the adjoining lagoon where the other members had gone, inasmuch as we heard no reports of guns.

About an hour afterwards Briggs appeared, in anything but a happy mood, and in a very distressed condition. After joining us he gave a woeful account of the "sport" the others were having. One by one the rest of the second party dropped in, and the disappointment of all was, to a certain extent, modified by refreshing drinks, and a quiet, cold lunch. None too eager to resume our sport after the miserable experiences of the morning, we wisely decided not to start out until dusk, when the ducks, which, the guide said, must have flown to the lakes, would be returning to the swamps, which, he said, were their homes. Notwithstanding this statement of the guide, three members of the party, namely, Druce, Trumble, and Dunn, ventured out in pursuit of some snipe they had seen in the morning. Four of us, however, not liking the idea of spending the day on this solitary island, decided upon rowing to the opposite shores, and spending a more comfortable time in the Scarborough Hotel, with the idea of returning just in time to have a little shooting at dusk. The rest of the members of the party were sitting in the cottage, anxiously awaiting the return of the boat with the fishermen. At dusk we returned, as intended, and took our positions at the places suggested by the guide, by the marsh, and gazed eagerly upwards into the skies for the return home of the ducks. For two hours once again we silently waited in vain. The whole party, however, returned without regret to the

steamer, when it came to take us back to our quarters. As far as sport was concerned, the day was a great disappointment, for the fishermen also, who had gone a few miles further, met with no luck whatever.

The next day we once again resolved to try for some sport in a different quarter, and also to indulge in a little hare shooting. Coming on our way we had some lively shooting at geese, duck, coot, and other wild fowl, that had assembled in great numbers at the mouth of the river Nicholson, and for a quarter of an hour there was great excitement on board the steamer, and everybody was delighted at this unexpected good fortune. Immediately afterwards most of us got on land, and after getting through some thick brush, vainly walked a few miles in pursuit of hares. Seeing the futility of going further we rejoined our comrades, who were on the steamer fishing, and once again tried our hands chasing the wild fowl at the same spot where we had enjoyed excellent fun in the morning. Several dodges were tried, in order to circumvent some ducks that were swimming in rather shallow water, but all our manœuvres were of no avail, as the birds were much too wild and too clever to be tricked. The latter part of the day a heavy thunderstorm broke over the district, and we consequently retired early—that is to say, earlier than usual—to the hotel. On the third day, hearing some good reports about some

hare shooting, a few of us decided to go into the bush after them, while the fishermen, who had been having no luck at all, still persisted in persevering with their endeavours. The drive in the bush was very pleasant and novel to all of us, and the cleverness of the driver in taking us safely through the rough tracts and roads in the four-in-hand was much admired, as also were the movements of the horses, which must have been trained to a great nicety to have felt the delicate handling of the reins. We heard the notes and songs of several birds, strange to us. Included amongst them were chiefly noticeable the laughing jackass, the bell birds, and the mutton-bird.

Having put our traps up at another of those pleasant inns which are happily to be found all over Australia, we proceeded forthwith after hares. The sport was, to a certain extent, successful, as we bagged a few, but several of the party got a rude shock by their having come across two large black snakes. It was quite curious to see how anxiously all of us avoided the thick parts of the scrub after that scare, and subsequently attention was directed more to finding out the presence of snakes than in trying to look for game. Richardson shot one, and Storer the other of these poisonous reptiles. However, the best sport that we were lucky enough to meet with was in bagging some snipe on our return journey near Lake Tyers. On the whole, the party returned

in the best of spirits, after a very enjoyable day from all points. The fishermen, however, again met with but little luck. Mr. Harrison, a vice-president of the M.C.C., who was also with our party, and who had devoted himself to angling during our trip in the lakes, was much delighted one day to find himself fortunate enough to catch a tiny brim, but his joy was of but short duration, as he was soon afterwards informed that a dead fish was hooked on to the bait by a playful fellow fisherman, who was sympathising with Mr. Harrison's ill luck.

We all had a most pleasant time at the lakes. The weather had been most agreeable, and the nights were beautifully cool. Besides, everywhere we went, we were struck by the novelty of the scenery, and of our surroundings. We all enjoyed our stay, and were very sorry that the holiday had not been a longer one.

The second of the great international matches was duly commenced on New Year's Day. The Australians made one change from their previous team, Lyons being left out for Noble. The team, therefore, was as follows :—

Victoria : Trott (captain), Trumble, McLeod. South Australia : Darling, Hill, Jones. New South Wales : Gregory, Iredale, Noble, Kelly, McKibbin.

The English team was exactly the same as that which proved victorious in the preceding Test Match :—

MacLaren (captain), Druce, Mason, Wainwright, Richardson, Hirst, Hearne, Briggs, Hayward, Storer, and Ranjitsinhji.

My playing was very doubtful up to the end, my throat having given me much trouble; but I was able to persuade the doctor in the end, impressing on him the importance of the match. On this occasion Trott once more proved to be the lucky captain that he is in winning tosses.

Darling and McLeod commenced the Australian innings. It seemed probable from the way in which Darling was playing that he was in for a long score, and it was equally evident from the way that McLeod shaped at the different bowlers that his stay would not last long. The result, however, proved quite the opposite. Darling, who had played a delightful innings, was caught by Hirst off a hard hit, when his score stood at 36. His cutting and driving were very fine. McLeod and Hill then had a long stay at the wickets, a partnership that broke up late in the afternoon, Hill being then caught by Storer off Hayward. He had played capital cricket, in the same confident manner he has displayed before. His characteristic strokes on the leg side were again conspicuous, and his straight driving was very forcible when he indulged in it. Gregory and McLeod had another useful partnership, which was finally broken up when Storer went on to bowl, Druce having taken his place at the wickets.

McLeod's score was 112 at the time of his dismissal. It could not be said of this innings of his that it was worthy of a player of his class. Up to lunch time he failed to time the ball altogether, and at no time did he give the impression of being able to stay at the wickets. It was after lunch, and after his score had reached beyond the 70's, that he played anything like attractive cricket, and there can be no doubt, to my mind, that the last forty runs were the only part of his innings that could be called first-class. His contribution, however, though extraordinarily lucky, was chanceless, and was of the greatest possible benefit to his side, inasmuch as it gave them a fine start.

Both Gregory and Iredale started badly, neither seeming confident in their play, and each man had a certain amount of good luck in avoiding the fieldsmen whenever they put up a ball from a miss-hit. However, both of them the next day, on the resumption of the game, played pretty cricket. Gregory's play was once again chiefly clever in his placing behind the wickets, and now and then he made a most brilliant off-drive. Iredale, who is a most versatile bat, drove, cut, and glanced as well as ever, although he was not so brilliantly fast in his scoring as he was in his initial attempt for his colony.

On Gregory being bowled by Briggs, Trott and Iredale had another long partnership. As was the

case with the previous batsmen, Trott started in anything but a safe manner, but as he warmed to his work he played better and more attractive cricket, and his drives to cover, and some on-hits off the slow and medium-paced bowlers were exceptionally hard and well-timed. Trumble, Kelly, and Noble all contributed useful scores to their side, and by good cricket. Jones and McKibbin failed to materially add to the score, and the innings terminated for a grand total of 520 on Monday afternoon.

Briggs was the most successful bowler on the English side, coming out with three wickets for 96. Richardson, who bowled uncommonly well throughout this long innings, only obtained one wicket for 114. He had exceptionally bad luck all through, for although he beat all the batsmen time after time, he failed to hit the stumps, missing by the narrowest possible margin: and, in the usual way, a great number of runs were made off him by the batsmen "edging" the ball. He bowled in this match, at the commencement of the Australian innings, better than he has done, so far, during the tour, but he met with no luck whatever. Hirst and Hearne, on the contrary, bowled uncommonly bad, and seldom gave an appearance of troubling the batsmen. Mason and Storer proved useful changes. Storer was distinctly unlucky in not getting three wickets. Hayward, who was injured on the first day in attempting an easy catch, obtained one wicket for 23, and his bowling

was certainly missed, as he took no further part in our "out" cricket.

The English bowling, on the whole, was poor and patchy, and, with the exception of Richardson and Briggs, the rest of the bowlers never came up to international, or even first-class form. The English ground-fielding was decidedly good, but their catching was not as sure as at Sydney, and Storer's wicket-keeping was certainly not worthy of him. He missed a couple of easy chances, which proved rather expensive.

England's innings opened on Monday, Mason and MacLaren starting it. Mason easily succumbed to McKibben, and Wainwright filled the vacancy. No further disaster occurred during the remainder of the play that day. Next day, after a slight stand, Wainwright was dismissed by Noble, Jones effecting a splendid catch. MacLaren and myself then added a few runs, when Trumble easily caught MacLaren at slip. His 35 was not a very first-rate exhibition of batting, for he played a lucky innings, and one not worthy of him. Hayward and I then made the best stand, so far, in our innings. Hayward's off-driving was again good, and, while not displaying that confidence which is characteristic of his play in the Old Country, his was a fair display. Storer and myself added another 40 to the score, when, in attempting a four, Trumble bowled me with a plain well-pitched-up ball, my score being 71. Hirst and

Storer did not survive long, and it was not till late in the day, when Druce and Briggs were together, that the hopes of the English partisans rose as to the team making a decent show with the bat. Both of them played the bowling with great ease, and showed exceptionally fine cricket. Druce's strokes all round the wicket, and Briggs' off-play, were exceedingly meritorious. Every credit is due to them for their most magnificent and plucky stand.

The end, however, soon came next day, inasmuch as Trumble obtained both the wickets in the first few overs on Wednesday morning, both players making over 40. The innings realised 315. Trumble was the most successful bowler on the Australian side, he having obtained four wickets for 54; McKibbin and Jones captured two wickets apiece, and Trott and Noble divided the rest, McLeod being totally unsuccessful as a bowler.

There can be no doubt, to my mind, that McKibbin, although not proving successful, bowled the best, and was the most difficult to negotiate in our first innings. In fact, with ordinary luck he might, on Monday evening, have easily captured three or four English wickets in that first half-hour, for he beat both Mason and MacLaren several times, as well as Wainwright. Next day, however, although he bowled well, he did not meet with much further success after getting MacLaren; and, like Tom

Richardson on our side, he certainly had hard luck in not obtaining more wickets.

Although the Australians dismissed the Englishmen for 315 runs, their bowling—on a wicket which was damaged considerably—was not of that high standard which one would have expected they would reach, with the wicket helping them, as it undoubtedly was. Their bowling, like ours, fell far below their real form. The Australian fielding was very smart, their ground-work being exceptionally good. Kelly, at the wickets, was nothing like so good as at Sydney, but this was mainly owing to the ill-health he had suffered from previous to the international game.

In a minority of 205, the Englishmen continued their task, starting with the same pair of batsmen as in their first venture, on a wicket which had already cracked and crumbled, and which was rapidly getting worse as time wore on. Once again Mason did not trouble the scorers. MacLaren and myself, though adding a few runs, had to take the greatest possible care. The Australian bowling, which had been opened by Trumble and McKibbin, had more skill, variety, and "devil" than it possessed in our first innings; and, for the first time in the match, the bowling rose to international form, and the bowlers undoubtedly made the most of the help derived from the wicket. MacLaren, after contributing 38, was caught by Trott from a hard hit. His contribution contained several excellent strokes,

but owing to the condition of the wicket, he was unable to show the marvellous form which had characterised his batting in most of the matches in which he has taken part in the tour so far. Noble secured my wicket with an exceptionally fine delivery. He went on to bowl during my partnership with MacLaren, and Storer, Hirst, and Druce all succumbed rapidly. Hayward, with a hard hit 33, enlivened matters slightly, and Wainwright and Briggs both added double figures to our score ; but the innings terminated soon afterwards for the small total of 150.

The English batting, if the circumstances were not to be taken into consideration, appears poor ; but under the conditions, no one who viewed the circumstances in an unbiased way, could have expected them to get many more. Trumble bowled as well as he ever did in his life ; keeping an admirable length, he was always difficult and nasty to watch. Noble obtained six wickets for 49, but though he bowled with excellent judgment and skill, and giving him every due for his fine performance, it cannot be said that he was either as skilful or as difficult as Trumble. Noble, it was said by some, curved the ball in the air, and thus made it difficult to see. As a matter of fact, there was not much breeze to help him, and what little there was was rather blowing from his own end to the other, than against him. The Australian fielding and

catching were exceedingly brilliant, and they thoroughly deserved their victory of an innings and 55 runs, and the English captain, in turn, as Trott had done in the previous match, congratulated his opponents on their magnificent achievement.

A review of the Test Match brings into consideration the following points :—The side that won the toss again put up a huge total of 500 and over. This score of 520, fine as it appears on paper, becomes a still greater achievement when I state that the wicket was wearing from the latter part of the first day's play. This, however, is my own opinion, rightly or wrongly. In justification of my statement as to the wicket, I have merely to point out, that although the Australian batsmen—with the exception of Darling, who played by far and away the best innings on the side—made large scores, namely, 112, 58, 71, 89, and 79, each one of them never showed that confidence which you would expect from players of their calibre on a good sound pitch.

That I attribute to some defects in the wicket from the very commencement of the game, a defect which was becoming more and more apparant as time and play progressed, and I personally consider that the Australian batting, good as it was, did not reach the same excellence as it did in the second innings in the Sydney match. Bad bowling on our part more than anything else had a great deal to do

with their huge score. The failure of Hearne to do himself justice on a wicket that helped him a bit, surprised me more than anything in our "out" work. Hirst looked the least dangerous of our bowlers; and, with Richardson out of luck, we were several times in difficulties. MacLaren and Hirst displayed brilliant form in the field.

The English first innings, in quality also, fell far below their Sydney performance; and that, again, without the bowling being particularly deadly, which still further convinces me that their score, good as it was under the conditions, was again chiefly to be attributed to the moderate quality of the Australian bowling. This fact, once more, is proved to a great measure by the subsequent show in the second innings, when the bowlers for the first time in the match showed complete mastery over the batting, taking, as they did, full advantage of the state of the wicket.

A good many opinions were from day to day expressed by old cricketers and by spectators on the game as a whole, and on the wicket in particular, and in most cases the bias in favour of the Home team was so great and pronounced, that the opinions expressed by most of these "accepted authorities" were in anything but harmony with the truth, principally as regards the pitch. Happily, several photographs were taken of the damaged portions of the wicket. They clearly indicated to every reason-

able person the worn and cracked state it was in. How anybody but the players, who had to battle with the conditions of the wicket, can be in a proper position to judge of the state of it, I am at a loss to understand. Apart from the players themselves, the other persons who are entitled to express an opinion, are the two men whose duty it is to watch the game from first to last on the spot, viz., the umpires. And the players of both teams, together with the umpires, are unanimous in their opinion that the wicket was materially affected.

MacLaren and myself got the chief credit of frightening the latter batsmen through our cautious tactics in our second innings, as, indeed, in our first. MacLaren, further, got blamed by some "accepted authorities" for not putting the roller on, and not having the ground swept. If either of these things had been done, the wicket would have been still more unplayable. In Australia they seemed to forget that MacLaren—who was described, with myself, as "a young and inexperienced cricketer," thus implying that he lacks that knowledge of the subtle points of the game which some people consider can only be possessed by players who have taken part in the game for twenty years or over—is a player who has played first-class for ten seasons, a period which forms the average career of a cricketer. He has been captain of Lancashire (one of the foremost cricketing clubs in England, and holding the

championship for the year 1897) for upwards of three years. Further, he had the good fortune to serve his cricket apprenticeship under the ablest of English captains and judges of the game, A. N. Hornby. The charge of want of experience and knowledge of the game may be applicable to myself, but as applied to him was unjust and far from true.

Some of the abuse meted out to us as mere cricketers, amounted to this: That we were trying to deprive the Australian cricketers of the merit of their achievement, by imputing their success to the wicket, an attempt which no player on our side has endeavoured in the slightest degree to make.

It has always been a characteristic of English players, and of Englishmen generally, to take their defeats in a most generous and sportsmanlike manner. It is admitted by all nationalities that one of the finest traits of the Anglo-Saxon race is the spirit in which they acknowledge the superior qualities of their opponents. The English players only wish to justify their apparent poor display in their two innings by the state of the wicket, and they have no intention of minimising in the slightest possible degree the superiority of the Australian players in this, the second Test Match, a superiority which has shown in all departments of the game. They had, undoubtedly, the best of the luck; and, as the Englishmen made the most of it in Sydney, so did the Australians on this occasion. They

would, undoubtedly, have won after the fine start they made, but it is questionable whether they would have won with the same margin had it not been for the state of the wicket.

At the end of the play the players and a few officials of the M.C.C. assembled together, and in proposing the health of the two teams, the vice-president, Mr. Harrison, commenced his speech by congratulating the Australians on their victory, and by praising the work of the English team in general, and went on to say that it was a pleasure to him to see that the game was played out from first to last under equal conditions of luck, a remark which might well have been omitted.

A word more about Australian fielding. Jones stood on a pinnacle by himself in this department, in advance of his opponents as well as his comrades. His fielding was marvellous in every sense. His getting to the balls travelling at a great rate, stopping, picking up, and returning were equally admirable. The others—and Trott in particular—were also brilliant. The Australian victory was very popular, and certainly adds great interest to the other matches of the series.

CHAPTER VIII.

SOME COUNTRY MATCHES.

ON Thursday, November 18, we left Sydney for Newcastle to play our first up-country match, or match against odds. I had never before taken part in a real up-country match of this nature, so I was particularly anxious to see the humours and vagaries of such a contest, as I had heard a great deal about the excitement and fun to be got out of these matches.

We started the match the next day, leaving out Richardson and Storer, who required a much-needed rest, Board playing for the first time on the tour. Our skipper lost the toss, and led his men into the field. The local men started batting against Briggs and Wainwright. After a few runs had been registered, Briggs shed first blood. It should be stated here, however, that upon reaching the wicket we found, much to our surprise, that it was quite soft and slow, it evidently having been watered much in excess of the necessary amount, but although the

ball bent a bit, it turned slowly and enabled the batsmen to follow its movements.

As Wainwright was unsuccessful, and as the match was not a serious one, the captain gave us all a turn with the ball, commencing first with myself. I was fortunate enough to get the first wicket for a few runs, but I must own that afterwards my bowling was not of a dangerous character to the local men. Hearne was tried after lunch and met with tremendous success, although in justice to the local men it must be said that the wicket after lunch played very queerly. Mason, Briggs, Stoddart, and MacLaren all were successful in getting rid of a few batsmen each. Lindsay topped the score with 39. He was unfortunately run out. He showed sound defence in his compilation, which was, however, very slow. Hague, Moore, Cowen, and Sneezby all contributed runs, but none of them showed form out of the common. The English team batted the same day late in the afternoon. Mason, Hayward and myself all contributed double figures, and we went in more for loosening our shoulders than for playing sound scientific cricket. It was quite refreshing to play this sort of cricket once in a way after the serious games we had been playing.

McGlinchy bowled exceedingly well on a wicket that helped him considerably. He is a slow bowler of fair merit, particularly on a wicket that helps his off-break. Wainwright and Druce were both got rid

of the same evening, but a long and prolific partnership ensued the next morning, as the result of Stoddart's and Hirst's innings, both men playing bright, attractive, and vigorous cricket. Both scored over a century, Hirst making 139, and the English captain 116, no less than thirteen balls being sent over the ropes, three of them sailing well out of the ground. It is a long time since I have seen such a brilliant exhibition of hitting, for although the bowling opposed to them was not of a very high order, as a set off against that the wicket was by no means a perfect one. It was rather disappointing and chilling to find that the spectators, who had assembled to see cricket (and cricket of this nature ought to rouse the most apathetic crowd to give unstinted and frequent applause) did not in any way show their appreciation by a single faint cheer. Such passive conduct from an Australian crowd seemed almost a contradiction in terms. MacLaren, Briggs, Board and Hearne did not trouble the fielding side to any extent.

The locals started their second innings on the afternoon of the second day. They commenced by losing six wickets for comparatively few runs, thanks to the excellent bowling of Hayward and Druce. After that, however, McGlinchy, Terry, Rock, and Waddy all played fairly well, and stalled off defeat by double figure contributions. Rock, an old Cambridge "blue," contributed 62, the highest score in

the two innings of the Newcastle players. He made some excellent cuts and off drives, and was the only one to hit a fiver for the local men. Waddy hit well for his 31, and McGlinchy made 30 by good play. The batting, taken as a whole, was not of a very formidable nature. McGlinchy, perhaps, was the best all-round player on his side. His bowling on the Friday afternoon created a rather favourable impression on me, notwithstanding the fact that the wicket assisted him considerably. The fielding of the locals, who, by the way, had thirteen men in the field, was always very fair, their wicket-keeper being particularly good. There was a certain amount of sluggishness and lack of keenness apparent among the local players as a team. They did not enter the field with the same determination to do or die that we afterwards found among the up-country clubs, some of them being better, and others not so good, in quality as this team. Perhaps it was my fancy, but yet I cannot help thinking that they lacked enthusiasm in their play.

Newcastle as a place does not offer many attractions to a visitor. It is neither a big town nor a small and pleasant up-country place, and its atmosphere is liable to sudden changes of a trying nature, a hot wind blowing one part of the day, when, without any warning, it would turn into a cool southerly gale, and give you as frequently as not a violent chill. Most of us had rather an unpleasant time of it from

the flies and mosquitoes. The voracity of these insects, the one in the daytime, the other at night, was something too terrible. The Yorkshire brigade, Storer and Board among the professionals, and Mason and our skipper among the amateurs, and to a certain extent myself, suffered terribly from the bites. Hirst presented the appearance of a prickly pear. One of Mason's eyes was completely closed up, having swollen considerably, and Stoddart's face and hands were quite globular. From the discovery which the English captain made afterwards it was not to be wondered at that he presented such a sorry picture, for the uncured skin of a large sea-bird was carefully placed underneath his bed for drying purposes, and was the harbourer of various kinds of small insects.

We left Newcastle for our second up-country match against odds on Saturday, arriving at Glen Innes on Sunday afternoon. Glen Innes is in that part of New South Wales which is known as New England. It is a charming little place, cooled by a continual soft breeze, and the locals gave us a very warm reception on our arrival. The match commenced next day, and it is worthy of notice that for the fifth time in succession the English captain lost the toss, and sent his men out into the field. This was our first match against twenty-two, as well as our first match on a matting wicket. The Glen Innes cricket reserve was entirely devoid of turf. The ground,

also, was very uneven. The local authorities, however, had made a new matting pitch particularly for this match. Briggs and Wainwright commenced the bowling. Afterwards Stoddart and myself had a turn with the ball, each of us obtaining a few wickets, the most successful being Stoddart, who got five wickets for 11 runs. There were only three double figure contributions in the first innings of the twenty-two—30 by Merriwether, 12 by Adams, and 18 not out by Trevers. Merriwether's 30 was a hard-hit innings, containing several excellent pulls and off drives.

Most of the locals seemed to indulge in the primitive stroke of man, viz., the pull. They had but faint idea of good sound cricket, but there can be no denying their keenness and desire to do well, and, unlike the Newcastle players, they were full of go. The way in which some of the local men, after being speedily dismissed, ran off from the wicket, was curious and very amusing. Some used to throw up the bat and run in at full speed to the dressing tent, just as if they had been pursued by an undesirable animal. Others used to look at the scattered wicket, give a great deep sigh, in testimony of the deep dejection they felt at getting out, and walk away to the tent in anything but a happy mood. The Glen Innes men, and also the Newcastle players, mostly played in brown pads, and, in most cases, the gloves were dispensed with. In this trait, how-

ever, they resemble country and minor club players at Home.

The order of going in on our side was for the first time arranged by a draw from the hat, but, unfortunately, in one instance, it was not adhered to by our skipper. I was drawn absolutely last. Wainwright, Board, myself, and Hearne were dismissed for about 70 runs. My dismissal, when I was given caught at the wicket off the pad, caused great jubilation amongst the twenty-two. MacLaren and Hirst afterwards contributed two useful scores of 40 and 30. Hayward, for the first time in the tour, exceeded the century, and he seemed by his play more at home on the matting pitch than the majority of the team. Druce and Mason also scored over 50 each, the total ultimately reaching 386 for eight wickets, at which period Stoddart declared his innings at an end.

The fielding of the local team was very fair, considering the roughness of the ground, and the wicket-keeping, as usual in these up-country matches, far better than anything else in their cricket. Of the bowlers no one showed much class, but Harris came out with the best average. The locals thought a great deal of their fast bowler, and were very anxious to know whether he was as fast as either Jones or Richardson, and I am afraid that some of us, in order to flatter their local pride, gave an answer that was pleasing to them, but was not strictly in accordance with truth. The locals commenced their

second innings with the solid total of over 240 runs against them. For the second time they did not show much ability to cope with our bowling, nor, with the single exception of Fitzgerald, did they give a good display of cricket. There were only four double figures scored among the twenty-two—47 by Fitzgerald, 26 by Broadbent, 18 by Roberts, and 12 by Trevers. Fitzgerald's was quite a good innings, his hitting being very clean. Stoddart was the chief factor in their dismissal, he obtained ten wickets for 39 runs. Briggs obtained seven wickets for 68, and I proved fatal to two batsmen at a cost of 26 runs. They showed an utter incapacity to play Stoddart, and the hopeless way in which they shaped at his deceptive slows was quite amusing. None of the batsmen timed him once, and they got out in attempting the usual country swipe.

The match, however, was a very pleasant one, the local team showing great keenness. The cricketing authorities arranged in our honour, on one of the evenings of our stay there, a dance, to which we were kindly invited. Most of us went there, and were exceedingly pleased at the beautifully decorated hall and capital floor, but, owing to an unintentional oversight on the part of the M.C.'s in not introducing us to partners, we were unable to take part in the social proceedings. No doubt a certain amount of reserve in not being acquainted with us, and their own fondness for dancing, may have in-

terfered with the performance of their duties; however, we watched the dancing with much interest for an hour and a half, and spent a pleasant evening. During the progress of the match the ladies of the place extended their hospitality to us by inviting the team to tea each afternoon, a compliment that was much appreciated by the players of both teams.

We left Brisbane for Toowoomba on Tuesday morning, commencing our match against a local eighteen the same day at noon. Stoddart and MacLaren stood out of the English team, and our skipper instructed me to take over the charge of the eleven during the match. The order of going in was drawn from a hat. The English score in the first innings reached 197. It looked at the start, however, as if the total would not exceed 130. The bowling on the matting wicket, which was decidedly a bad one, was particularly good, as both Ramsay and Cuffe were well on the spot. The only ones who reached double figures were Hayward, Wainwright, Druce, Board, Hearne, and Richardson. Hayward, Wainwright, and Hearne played really good cricket; indeed, Hayward's and Wainwright's scores of 68 and 45 were the result of some capital play. For, on that wicket, where the ball got up straight, and enabled the bowlers to break both ways, it was a difficult matter for any batsmen to obtain runs decently. The fielding of the local team on the rough ground was particularly smart, and their dash

and keenness was also very much in evidence. They were clearly the best lot of up-country cricketers we had met so far.

The local team batted late in the same day, and lost one wicket. Next day, however, thanks to a good and hard hit score of 85 by Thomas, and useful scores by King, Holden, Cuffe, Pascoe, and Robinson, each of them playing in their own particular style fairly good cricket, the local score reached 242 for thirteen wickets, and the Home captain then declared the innings closed. Of our bowlers, Hearne and Hirst were the most successful, although, as in the other up-country matches, the majority of our bowlers were given a turn with the ball, with the exception of Richardson, who would have been exceedingly dangerous on the bumpy pitch. The English fielding was not so smart as that of the locals, but it was chiefly owing to the fact that they were not accustomed to such an excessively rough ground. The caperings of the ball at times were exceedingly dangerous, as was the case at Glen Innes, although here we had just a suspicion of turf on the ground. In our second innings, Storer and myself were very cheaply got rid of for the second time, I having obtained a "duck's egg" in the first innings. Druce, Mason, and Hirst played very well, and at the call of time we had made 115 for the loss of four wickets. The local team in this match deserve every credit for the rare good show

they made against us on their own ground ; their batting, bowling, and fielding being in every way excellent.

Thomas's batting and the bowling of Cuffe were, indeed, quite a feature of the match. Thomas as a bat is quite a cool customer, and the calm way in which he hit our bowlers, without ever getting flurried, was quite refreshing, coming, as it did, from a young, up-country player, the majority of whom look upon the English bowlers as something super-human, and play accordingly in a half-hearted and awe-stricken manner. Thomas had plenty of strokes, but his cutting, straight-driving, and pulling were particularly good. Cuffe is a medium-pace left-hand bowler, keeps an accurate length, and makes the ball on the matting wicket come back either way. The balls with which he dismissed Storer both times, and Wainwright in the first innings, being beauties. He bowled any number of good balls besides, and beat several of our best batsmen in the course of the match. Ramsay's bowling was also very steady, and for a veteran cricketer, he is exceedingly active still. He is an old Kent player, and still plays when he goes home, for St. Lawrence's Club, Canterbury. The wicket-keeping of the locals in this match was exceptionally good again. It is a curious fact that in the up-country matches the wicket-keeping is of a class far in advance of anything else in the other departments of the game.

Stoddart and MacLaren amused themselves with a day's shooting, but apart from an exciting drive home, in which they very nearly came to grief, the bag was not a successful one, inasmuch as the hare driving for which they had gone was a failure, and although they tried to make us believe that they had had a very successful day's shooting, the extent of their bag soon leaked out. In the evening a few members of our team went opossum shooting, and, although the night was not particularly bright, they were successful in obtaining a few opossums, and "Jack" Hearne delighted the company with a magnificent shot, which fetched a mo-poke (a species of night owl) stone dead. During the latter part of our stay here my throat troubled me seriously, and it was soon apparent that it would have been wiser not to have played in this match, as the quinsy that I was suffering from fore-shadowed a fortnight's trouble.

After leaving Toowoomba we went to Armidale, where we opposed twenty-two of New England. The match was sadly interfered with by rain, but notwithstanding that, the English team, after winning the toss, contributed a score of 141 on a matting wicket. Stoddart and MacLaren contributed 30 apiece, and Briggs, for the first time, played well, and carried his bat out for 23. The order of going in here again was drawn in the hat. The bowling of the local men was very fair indeed; Jones, who

obtained four for 21, coming out best, and the other bowlers, all of them, obtained a wicket or two at no great cost. It must be admitted, however, that the wicket was not by any means perfect. The English team did not seem to relish the matting. Further, it is only fair to state that in all the up-country matches the desire of our players is to hit high, hard, and often, and as the local fielding and catching are very good, invariably the policy ends disastrously. The match could not be continued on Saturday, and an extra day was given by Stoddart in order not to disappoint the local public, but very little progress was made, even with Monday thrown in, on account of the rain, the final score of the Armidale men being four for 36. Hirst and I were left out of the team.

During my stay in Armidale I was mostly confined to my bed. A capital dance was got up in honour of the team, in which the players took part, and enjoyed the dancing till a late hour. Everybody was exceedingly kind and hospitable to us at Armidale, and our stay, consequently, was very enjoyable. We were disappointed, therefore, at the turn the weather took, thus preventing us playing the full two days for their amusement.

On December 27, the team, with the exception of myself, left Melbourne for Bendigo to play a three days' match with the locals, commencing on Monday. I stayed behind to have my throat attended to. For

the notes of this match, I am indebted to my friend, Mr. MacLaren, who had the command of the team in the absence of our captain. He having lost the toss, the locals batted first on a rather fiery wicket. The wicket was a turf one, and the ground, for an up-country one, particularly good. On account of the state of the wicket, the locals were not able to do themselves justice. There were five double figure contributions from the eighteen—Freeman, Sarvaas, Edwards, Trewartha, and Guy contributing 16, 30, 19, 17, and 12 respectively. "Mr Sundries"—as was once described by a spectator in a recent match in which the Englishmen took part in Melbourne—played a double figure contribution, thus to a certain degree showing that the wicket-keeper was not at home with the fiery pitch. Briggs was the most successful bowler as regards the wickets, he having obtained five, but Hirst had by far the best average. He bowled remarkably well, as the pace of the wicket suited his bowling. Richardson was not made much use of, although, in order to please the public, he was put on for a few overs, but did not bowl his best pace on account of the state of the pitch. The other bowlers who were tried were Hayward and Wainwright, both of whom also obtained several wickets. Sarvaas, who made the top score, is a player of the defensive order, and does not appreciate balls on his legs. Edwards played a good confident game, and made some

excellent off-strokes and good cuts, clearly indicating his ability as a batsman, and that he has played superior cricket several years back.

The English batting, as in most matches, was begun by MacLaren and Mason, but the two best partnerships were those of Mason and Hayward, and Mason and Storer. Mason, for the second time in Victoria, played a three-figure innings; and, curiously enough, the total in each case was the same—namely, 128. Mason's innings, considering the wicket, was a very fine one, although the quality of the bowling opposed to him was not of a very high standard. Both Hayward and Storer also played well. The rest of the team did not add much to the score. Hall, a slow bowler, obtained four wickets at a reasonable cost. Harry, their fast bowler, but in reality a fast-medium, did not prove the "terror" the locals expected he would be. Sarvaas, like Harry, obtained two wickets.

In the second innings of the Bendigo men the eighteen played a good deal better, and there were nine double-figure scores; Mackay, with 20, perhaps showing the best form. Bruce, also, played well for his runs. Of the English bowlers, Briggs again took most of the wickets, but Hirst, who obtained a wicket every time he was put on, the odds not relishing his bumpy deliveries, came out with the best analysis. Wanting 79 to win, the Englishmen started their second innings with Druce and Wain-

wright, who, without much difficulty, knocked off the runs without being separated on the third day.

The best part of the cricket of the Bendigo men was their out-work, that is to say, their fielding, catching, and wicket-keeping. Their batting was fair, but their bowling was undoubtedly weak. This was the first up-country match to which three days were devoted. A curious understanding had been arrived at between the rival captains as to the use of the wickets that had been prepared. Two wickets had been prepared for the match, and it was left at the option of the captain as to which wicket the side losing the toss would use when their turn came, the new one, or the one on which the side that had won the toss had batted. This option was exercised by the English captain in batting on the fresh wicket; it was further agreed that, in case the fresh wicket did not come up to expectations, the old pitch was to be utilised. The match proved a most pleasant one for the English players, and their stay at Bendigo was made exceedingly pleasant, owing to the hospitality that was accorded on all sides to the visiting team. The members of the team were invited to visit some of the gold mines, an invitation which most of them accepted, and they had the satisfaction of seeing some of the best mines in the colonies. The team returned to Melbourne to prepare themselves for the next Test Match, and practice for a day or two on the Melbourne ground.

Our next match, against eighteen of Ballarat, commenced on January 7. Hayward and Hearne were left out of the English team. Stoddart lost the toss with that persistent run of ill-luck which has followed him during this tour, as in the previous one. The Ballarat ground is a very fine one, and for an up-country town, it was beyond expectations. All the arrangements during the match were well carried out by the management, and the crowd was in the best of spirits throughout.

The local players in their innings showed undoubtedly the best cricket that we have experienced in up-country matches up to this period, and that, notwithstanding the failure of Giller, a South Melbourne player with a good record. The scores of Wright and Wanliss were distinctly high-class. Wright is a left-hand bat with a very strong defence, and a number of strokes on both sides of the wicket. His driving, however, lacks power, but his cutting, and his treatment of short-pitched balls on either side of the wicket, is decidedly clever. The best innings on the side of the local men was that of Wanliss, who played a first-class innings for 80, and was not in difficulties with the bowling at any time. He is a very stylish batsman, with plenty of confidence. He played the bowling with grace and ease. His driving is a special feature of his play, and is all along the carpet. He is a player well worth looking after for the colony, and should distinctly be a player

of a high class in the future. The other double-figure scores were 16, 18, 18, 18, and 23, by Champion, Herring, Christy, Radcliffe, and Ham, the latter being not out. The total of the first innings reached 283, Richardson coming out best in the bowling, with five wickets for 26, although he was but sparingly used. I have never seen Briggs handled so roughly by local men before, and they certainly made the most of his slow ones, hitting him to all parts of the field. Wainwright did not prove dangerous either, and Storer and Stoddart were the only others of our bowlers who were at all played with respect. Hirst and Mason captured a wicket each. The English fielding was slack.

England started batting with Stoddart and Hirst the next day. A long partnership ensued, the first to leave being Hirst, who had played a capital hitting innings for 59. Mason played well for his score, and MacLaren, Wainwright, and Druce all got into double figures, and rendered capital assistance to the score; but the highest score and by far the best display was that of Stoddart, whose 111 was worthy of his best days, his driving and his cutting reminding one of his best form on Home grounds. Notwithstanding the moderate quality of the bowling, there can be no denying the fact that his was a very meritorious innings. The local bowling, though not proving deadly to the first six batsmen, was good enough to dispose of the last four for a very small

score. The total for nine wickets ultimately reached 342. I was absent on account of having had a severe attack of asthma all throughout my stay at Ballarat. Bailey captured three wickets for 24. The fielding of the local team was, as usual in up-country matches, smart, the wicket-keeping being specially so. Their bowling, however, was the weakest point of their play.

Going in a second time for half-an-hour, the locals lost three wickets for 11 runs, Druce and MacLaren securing the victims. The match proved a delightful one to everybody, and was, indeed, very good practice for the visiting eleven, as the pitch was a turf one, as well as being a good one. The weather, though hot, was pleasant.

The team travelled on Saturday night to Stawell to play twenty-two of that district. Reaching there late at night, Mr. McKellar met us at the station, he having extended a most hospitable invitation to put up the team at his station, Kirkella, a few miles from Stawell. The team was received with great enthusiasm at the railway station, and we reached our host's place after a pleasant drive, and were delighted with the moonlight scenery of the first "station" we visited in Australia.

The match commenced on the Stawell ground on a matting wicket, Stoddart, for once in a way, winning the toss. The locals were much disappointed at not being allowed to have twenty-two men in the

field, having previously requested our skipper to put them in. Stoddart conceded them fourteen in the field. It was evident from the look of the ground that the authorities had taken great pains to put it in as smooth and good order as it was possible for them to do. The weather during the match was excessively hot, and the members of both teams felt it severely. The heat was all the more trying as the ground, on account of the soil having no turf upon it, reflected the heat back again. Druce, Stoddart, MacLaren, Board, and Briggs contributed the major portion of our runs, the three first-named playing the best cricket. The wicket, however, was rather difficult, as, apart from the bowlers being able to make the ball "do" both ways, the ball, as usual on matting wickets, got up awkwardly from the pitch. The fielding of the local men and their wicket-keeping were again very good, and their eagerness to do their utmost in the match was very self-evident from the movement of each player in whatever he had to do.

The English team left out Mason, Wainwright, and Hayward, and having only ten men at our disposal, Mr. Priestly, who had travelled from England specially to see our matches, was invited to take part in the contest. He found for the three-quarters of an hour that he was batting, that playing on matting and up-country wickets is anything but an easy matter.

Trumble and Nicholls were the most successful bowlers, each capturing three wickets. When the local men batted the next day, Trumble, Nicholls, Rusden, and Goldsworthy, showed the best form. Trumble (an old Victorian player) played a very slow innings, the runs chiefly accruing from singles, or from glances to leg. Nicholls, an old Oxford "blue," made 48 by some hard hitting on the off-side, and played a very confident game. Rusden is a defensive player, and his is a difficult wicket to capture. His straight driving is very accurate. Goldsworthy though possessing an unattractive style, is also a difficult man to shift, and makes his runs well in his own particular way. The locals headed the English total by a few runs, and the public were much delighted with their performance. Briggs, Storer, and myself were the ones that captured most of the wickets.

Our fielding was very loose, as the men, not being accustomed to playing on a ground without any turf, found the ball coming in all directions, and hopping about a good deal. Mr. Priestly got hit on nearly every part of his body in his vain attempts to stop the ball, and his opinion of the ground was anything but a complimentary one. However, there can be no denying the fact that it was by no means the worst ground that we have played on during this tour. The rest of our party, but for the soil throwing the heat back, were rather pleased

than otherwise that the ground was not like the field at Glen Innes and Toowoomba. The heat was most oppressive during the match, on the second day, particularly so, as the thermometer stood at 113 degs. in the shade, and 170 in the sun. We found the people most hospitable, and the ladies, as at most other up-country places, provided the members of both of the teams with afternoon tea.

The extraordinary interest taken in cricket in this country by ladies is truly marvellous, and is particularly noticeable at big matches, and, unlike the majority of the fair sex in the Old Country, are particularly well posted up in their knowledge of the game; and there can be no denying that they come to see cricket played, and played well. It is not only my own opinion, but the opinion of a good many others, that the average lady spectator in this country knows quite as much of the game as, if not more than, the ordinary man.

We all enjoyed our drive from Kirkella to Stawell, and back every day. Perhaps the evening one, when it was much cooler, was more pleasant. Kirkella is a charming country residence, and is well laid out on the top of a hill with a beautiful large garden surrounding it. On one side of it there is a small pond, and on the other a small wood, which vividly reminded one of a country seat in England. There is some good hare shooting

to be had in the adjoining bush and scrub, and about a mile from the house there is capital rabbit shooting. The members of the team were treated to a day's rabbit shooting, and every one who took part had a most enjoyable day's sport. Our host was delighted at the execution done among the vermin. On my complimenting him on the number of rabbits he possessed on the estate, he chaffingly remarked that he prided himself on the fact that his grounds had very few indeed. He explained to me how great a nuisance the rabbits are at some stations, and that the pastoralist regard them as a veritable plague. Mr. McKellar indulged us in almost every kind of amusement, riding, driving, and shooting being the principal ones. The hospitality of our host was on a very kind and liberal scale, and the team appreciated it greatly. A happier and more enjoyable three days we have not spent on our tour. We all regretted Mr. McKellar's indisposition, owing to the effects of the heat on the day we left, and we wished him a speedy recovery.

CHAPTER IX.

THE THIRD TEST MATCH.

THE English team, having thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated Kirkella hospitalities, left Stawell for Adelaide, in fine fettle for the fray on Monday night, arriving at Adelaide next morning. The intensity of the heat did not abate at Adelaide, although the air was certainly much drier. Owing to the Inter-Colonial Match progressing on the Adelaide Oval, the team were unable to indulge in practice at the nets; however, several of us saw the finish of the game, in which the home team were beaten after a moderate display by their batsmen. On the completion of the Inter-Colonial game, the rival teams of the third Test Match indulged in net practice on the Adelaide Oval for a couple of days, some of the members having two knocks a day. The spare time in the day was spent in trying to get cool, either on the heights of the hills close by, or by journeying down to Largs Bay.

On the memorable day of the third International

Match, the following eleven took the field for Australia:—Victoria—H. Trott, McLeod, Trumble; South Australia—Darling, Hill, Jones; New South Wales—Gregory, Iredale, Noble, Kelly, Howell. Thus, it will be noticed, Howell was a fresh introduction in the team, McKibbin being left out after his comparative failure in the first two tests. England had the following players representing it:—Stoddart, Mason, Druce, MacLaren, Storer, Hayward, Hirst, Briggs, Hearne, Richardson, and myself. Stoddart took the place of Wainwright, thus playing his first big match during the tour.

The match created an extraordinary amount of interest with the general public, and they flocked to see the third game in thousands on the Oval, for they well knew that they would be rewarded by seeing some exceptionally fine cricket, inasmuch as both the teams would be thoroughly on their mettle to secure an advantage after each side had credited itself with a win. The Adelaide Oval, on this, our return visit was a perfect picture to look at: its fresh and green turf was in direct contrast to the brown and parched appearance of the field on our first visit. The ground authorities had taken great pains and trouble to bring it into such perfect condition all over its large area.

The additional stands which were being erected during our first match looked fine, and were well patronised by the genral public. It is only fair to state also, that the arrangements and fittings in the

dressing room were made more convenient and comfortable for the players.

Trott, the home captain, for the second time won the toss, and naturally decided to take first innings on the beautiful wicket that had been prepared by the ground man, notwithstanding that he had the disadvantage of the interference of the late Inter-Colonial Match in the preparation of the wicket.

Darling and McLeod opened the Australian batting against Richardson and Briggs, the two bowlers who opened the English attack. McLeod batted indifferently, as at Melbourne. Darling, on the other hand, batted with extreme confidence and power, paying marked attention to Richardson. Darling obtained most of his runs, as usual, by making drives on the off-side, ranging from cover-point to mid-off, and he occasionally varied this by well timed cuts both square and late. The English bowling at the start, though excellent in length, was none too deadly, although, in justice to the bowlers, it must be admitted that they had hard luck in not obtaining McLeod's wicket, which ultimately fell for 31, when the total stood at 97. His display, though containing one or two excellent strokes, was slow and exceedingly tame.

Then came the partnership of the match, when Hill joined Darling. Both these left-handers, as in the other test games, made light work of the English bowling, though the bowling was in reality good, or

would have appeared such to right-hand batsmen. After Hill got set, both batsmen seemed to be thoroughly relishing their work, and never for one moment appeared in difficulties. Darling's driving was, indeed, magnificent, and could hardly have been surpassed by such veritable "demon hitters" as Lyons or McDonnell. He also occasionally indulged in a square hit over the ropes from Briggs' slow balls. Richardson he cut and drove between cover and point with terrific force, and the fieldsmen had no chance of stopping the hits unless the ball was straight towards them, when it was a difficult thing, indeed, to avoid it. Hill's play, on the contrary, as is usual with him, was remarkable for his magnificent on-side display, and his powerful "back" strokes. He glanced Richardson, hooked Briggs, and drove Hearne with great precision. He looked set for a big score, when we were fortunate enough to get rid of him late on the first day for 81, after an elegant and perfect display of left-hand batting. Gregory joined Darling, and another useful stand enabled the Australians to adjourn play for the first day with the loss of only two wickets, Darling being not out 178.

The next day we secured Darling's wicket before he had added a single to his score. Thus terminated one of the greatest left-hand batting displays that I have ever seen, and for the second time a big innings terminated without any addition to the total on the

re-opening of play the next morning on the South Australian Oval. Darling played a great forcing game from the start up to the end of his innings. The chief feature in all his strokes was his perfect timing, and the power he put into his strokes. As usual, he showed fine confidence, grand resolution and determination throughout his long innings. It is not to be wondered at that he gave three chances in compiling these runs, but only two serious blemishes could be urged against his achievement. They were between 80 and 100, and considering the pace with which he secured his runs, and the very powerful game he played, they in no degree minimise the greatness of his performance, and his batting went a long way towards giving his side a good start, and affording an opportunity to his comrades who followed him of making full use of the English bowling when it had its edge blunted, and in the end materially contributing to his team's ultimate success.

Gregory and Iredale then set up another capital stand, but the cricket of these two suffered in comparison with what had preceded it. Gregory obtained most of his runs through his cutting and placing in the slips, and he seldom utilised his cover stroke or his "hook," nevertheless his 52, though marred by one of the easiest of chances, was a welcome addition to the Australian score. Trott fell an easy victim to Hearne. Iredale at 84, unfortu-

PHOTO BY] [STUMP, ADELAIDE.

CLEMENT HILL.

nately, played on to Richardson. He looked certain to reach a century, and during the latter portion of his innings had displayed very clever and scientific cricket. It is singular how often he started badly for a player of his ability. There can be no denying, however, that Iredale has a great variety of strokes, and in all his large scores he treats the spectators by demonstrating most of them when he gets a chance. Since his English experience his on-driving has been a marked feature of his play, whilst his cutting and off-driving are as crisp as ever. Noble, Trumble, Kelly, and Howell, all materially added to the score, their figures being 39, 37 not out, 22, and 16. Noble played a very hard game for 39, when he was again bowled by Richardson.

Noble, now that I have been able to see something of his form as a batsman, is essentially an off-side player, playing forward and back with much force; but he hardly gives the impression of at any moment trying to place the ball. There can be no doubt, however, that he is a dangerous batsman, and is apt to compile a large score very quickly. Trumble once again proved a thorn to our side, our bowlers finding him a very difficult wicket to dispose of. In his 37 he made his well-known drives between cover and point, varied by an occasional cut with the left foot forward. As usual, his was a very sound display. Kelly hit up 22, and was bowled by Stoddart, who had once in a way put himself on to

bowl. Jones, after despatching Richardson for 4 —a magnificent hit—soon ran himself out. The umpires mistaking the time, unfortunately for the English side, stopped the game quite eight minutes before six on Monday, thus depriving them of the chance of disposing of the last wicket that evening. Howell, after hitting up 16, succumbed to Hearne, the total in the end reaching 573, with the help of 22 extras.

The most successful bowler on the English side was Richardson, who captured four wickets for 164. Hearne was second, with two for 94, and Briggs, Hirst, and Stoddart got a wicket apiece. It will be readily understood that in such a big score, nearly all the bowlers proved terribly expensive. Perhaps the best bit of bowling was done by Briggs, who bowled uncommonly well throughout the Australian innings and met no luck whatever, for when be beat the batsman he missed the wicket, and when the batsman made miss-hits, the fieldsmen dropped the catches. Both Hearne and Hirst bowled with capital length, but on account of the easy pace of the wicket, the bowling had no fire in it whatever, thus enabling the batsmen to play it easily. Hirst, unfortunately for us, injured his side badly whilst bowling, and we were deprived of his help in that department the greater part of Monday's play. Hayward and Mason did not give the impression of appearing to prove troublesome to the batsmen, and were unsuccessful

in their endeavours to secure a victim. Richardson, who with Briggs and Hearne bore the brunt of the attack, bowled very well, and at a great pace ; but, as usual, his analysis suffered heavily owing to the marked attention paid to his deliveries by the two left-handers. Each day it is becoming more apparent to all of us that his bowling is much appreciated by left-hand batsmen, and he himself is not able to adapt his bowling to left-handers so as to get rid of them cheaply. During one part of the match, that is to say up to lunch-time the first day, Briggs bowled for an hour and a half for about 16 runs—a really grand performance on the Adelaide pitch, beautifully true as it was. Stoddart obtained a wicket at the cheap cost of 18 runs, and was unlucky in not obtaining another. He undoubtedly ought to make a more frequent use of his bowling.

The ground fielding of the team, as a whole, was excellent ; but the catching, for a first-class team of such a high calibre, was lamentably poor, six easy chances being unaccountably missed. Hearne, Hayward, Stoddart, and myself and Storer accounting for them, I being the chief culprit, inasmuch as I started the rot, and missed two. The English catching has invariably been superior to the Australian, just as much as the Australian ground fielding has been in most cases superior to the English. This match was, however, an exception. Druce, MacLaren, Hirst, and Hayward, with Briggs and

Storer, particularly distinguished themselves in the field, the first three being at times brilliant. I had the misfortune during the latter part of the Australian innings to have a finger knocked out of joint and badly bruised, in attempting to stop a hard cut by Noble, an accident which practically crippled me for both fielding and batting during the match. I must acknowledge that I was disappointed at my slice of bad luck, inasmuch as I was eagar to do well in the match, and particularly at the Adelaide Oval; I had every hope of achieving some measure of success, inasmuch as my confidence had been much strengthened owing to my improved form at the nets during the three days' practice.

English batting opened before lunch the third day, and a most disastrous start was made, the first four batsmen being out at the start with very few runs to their credit. Mason was bowled by Jones when he had made 11, and MacLaren beaten by a beauty from Howell, whilst Storer likewise shared the same fate, and Trumble accounted for my wicket. The first to stay the misfortunes were Hayward and Druce. Druce once again exhibited fine form for his runs, and again got out when apparantly well set, in attempting to force the runs off Noble. Stoddart contributed a useful 15, when he was magnificently caught off the first big hit he attempted by Jones at mid-off. Hayward and Hirst then made a fine stand; Jones, however, accounted for Hayward's

wicket when the latter had scored a highly meritorious 70. It was a patient, effective, and sound display of good batting, straight driving and cutting being its chief forte. He occasionally glanced a ball or hooked one when the opportunity presented itself. Hirst, on the other hand, compiled 85, and though not such a finished display as Hayward's, it was equally sound and more vigorous, his hooking, his cutting, and his off-driving being clean and well-timed. Hirst, like Darling, possesses grim determination and bull-dog grit. Both have nerves that know no flinching, and are undoubtedly at their best when the occasion demands that they should do well. Briggs batted carefully for 14, when, like Druce, in attempting an off-drive he was caught at the wicket. Hearne did not trouble the scorers, and Richardson, who joined Hirst, knocked up a plucky and useful 25 by hard hitting, chiefly on the on-side. He, like Jones on the other side, made one exceptionally fine off-drive. It is quite amusing to see these two fast bowlers trying to hit each other when their turn comes to bat, and both succeed in knocking up a few runs, and exhibit, either by design or accident, one or two exceptionally fine strokes. The English total in the end reached 278, a very moderate display on such a beautiful pitch.

The reason of the cheap dismissal of the English batsmen, apart from bad judgment, and a little bad batting, was entirely due to the excellence of the

Australian bowling. I have but seldom seen such exellent bowling on a true, easy pitch, Howell, Noble, Trumble, and Jones all bowling excellently. Howell, who was only a fortnight ago not considered by the N.S.W. selectors good enough to represent his colony against Victoria, actually obtained the best figures and the greatest success. His four wickets only cost 70 runs. He bowled with excellent judgment and length, and made the ball not only go quick off the pitch, but actually turned several inches on that wicket. Noble performed only second to Howell, and he again proved difficult to score off. There can be no doubt that his delivery is very deceptive to the batsmen, and the curious way in which he makes the ball hang in the air, deceives the batsmen it its flight, and this makes them commit many an error. Jones obtained two, and Trumble one of the remaining wickets. The fielding of the Australians was exceptionally fine, their catching and ground fielding both being superior to ours. Jones, Trott, and Gregory were the most prominent; the others, one and all, worked hard, but were overshadowed by their more brilliant comrades. Kelly's wicket-keeping was much better than it was at Melbourne, no doubt his improved health accounting mainly for the better result.

Following on against a minority of close upon 300, the English team once again opened their innings with the usual pair of batsmen. The start, as in the

initial attempt, was again disappointing, Mason being caught by Jones off Noble, from a wretched stroke. On my joining MacLaren, however, a very useful and tolerably long partnership resulted.

Owing to an injury to my left hand I started rather wildly, and after attempting to force the game, was missed in the out field when my score stood somewhat about 20. After that, however, both he and I raised the score safely to the extent of 142, when, in attempting to place McLeod between two fields in the country, I spooned one up in the slips, which Trumble safely held. It was a wretched piece of judgment for me to have attempted the stroke at such a critical period of the game, for as it happened afterwards, that was the only time during our second innings that England looked like making a bold bid. Hayward and Storer both fell easy victims to McLeod, but upon Druce joining MacLaren, another useful stand was made. Druce, in his capital 27, made some excellent strokes, and showed excellent defence; but as in the first innings, in trying to force the runs, he was again bowled by Noble. He unfortunately picks the wrong ball to hit at. Stoddart and MacLaren also added a few runs, but at last MacLaren's magnificent innings came to a close by Kelly catching him at the wicket. He had played a sound and great innings of 124 without the shadow of a chance. It was compiled very slowly; but, considering that he was fighting a losing

game against some of the best bowling in the world, and with the knowledge that several of the later batsmen were not playing up to anything like form, it is not to be wondered at. His placing on the leg side was as effective as ever, and some of his "off drives" and "slip strokes" were neatly placed. Hirst, Briggs, Hearne, and Richardson did not add much to the total. The innings, with the help of the various sundries, reached 282. Considering the wicket, it was again a poor performance.

Too much praise, however, cannot be given to the Australian players for their magnificent bowling. Noble, Howell, and McLeod all bowled splendidly, and I question if we shall have better bowling against us during the tour. None of the batsmen on our side could take the slightest liberty with the attack, and even MacLaren, who made over 100, found run-getting a difficult matter. McLeod came out with the best performance, obtaining five for 66. Noble obtained five for 88. The others were unsuccessful in securing a victim, although bowling magnificently. Without wishing in any way to minimise McLeod's performance, I am personally of opinion that although his figures came out the best, Noble really bowled the best, and was more dificult to play. At Melbourne, curiously enough, in the second Test Match, Trumble though bowling the best had to rest content with the second place to Noble. Howell, though not obtaining a wicket for 60 runs, bowled

exceptionally well, and decidedly had much to contend against in the way of bad luck in not hitting the stumps several times. The fielding again was excellent, the Australians throughout the innings maintaining a very high standard of efficiency in both catching and ground work. Jones, Gregory, and Trumble did some fine work, and Noble was continually doing hard work, and came in for much applause from the crowd.

A good deal of credit must be given to Trott again for the excellent judgment he displayed in placing the fields for the various English batsmen, and I must attribute a good deal of the success achieved by the bowlers to this clever tactician. There can be no doubt, to my mind, that Trott, even if he were no good in any other department of the game, is always "worth his weight in gold," to speak metaphorically, as a skipper to any side. Australia at the end won by an innings and a few runs to spare, and although the victory is not quite as large as at Melbourne, it was more genuinely won and more decisive.

In reviewing the game, which it is pleasing to note was played from first to last on a wicket that had worn but little and was certainly one of the best that could be prepared on the Adelaide Oval, one can come to only one conclusion, and that is, that the Australians in the match showed superiority over their English opponents at all points of the game, batting, bowling, and fielding. The displays of

Darling, Hill, Iredale, and Gregory were far in advance of anything on the English side, with the exception of MacLaren's century, though, in justice to Hayward's and Hirst's two displays in the first innings, it must be stated that they had much superior bowling to obtain the runs against. The Australian bowling, namely that of Howell, Noble, and McLeod, was far in advance of Richardson, Hearne, and Briggs, who are the best trundlers on our side. They kept better length, they varied their pace more, and they were more puzzling to the batsmen ; and what is more, they tried to find out the weak spots of their rivals, and succeeded sooner in obtaining the required knowledge than the English bowlers, who, as usual, stuck entirely to the length theory. The English fielding was good and fairly even throughout the Australian innings, so far as ground work was concerned, but bad catching cost them at least a couple of hundred runs. I have but seldom seen so many easy chances either dropped or misjudged.

The only regrettable incident of the match to which reference must be made in this narrative of our tour, was the merciless "barracking" of which I was the recipient during my first innings in the match. I was at the wickets for about a quarter of an hour, and during the whole of that time uncomplimentary and insulting remarks were hurled at me from all parts of the field. That such conduct is

unfair to a player of any side is too apparent. That the crowd which had the bad taste to "barrack" a player for reasons which are best known to themselves, tried their best to prevent a member of the English team from doing his duty to his side, there can be no question. But I am happy to relate the incident had not the desired effect, as my getting out from a bad stroke of a bad ball, was the result of the injury to my hand previously mentioned. I feel sure, however, that I shall not appeal in vain to the good sense of the Australian people, in asking them not to handicap players of either side by unnecessary jeering during the progress of a match, inasmuch as, to put it in the mildest form, "it is not fair play." The incident, as far as it concerns me, is at an end, and forgotten after the graceful and kindly way in which Sir Edwin Smith spoke on the completion of the match.

The result of the match created great enthusiasm among the spectators and the public generally in Adelaide, and the Australians are to be heartily congratulated on about as fine a performance as any side has probably ever achieved. For, in my opinion, they out-played their opponents easily at all points of the game.

From Adelaide the team journeyed down to Hamilton, in Victoria, to play an up-country match against a twenty-two. Richardson, Hirst, and I stood out of the team. The weather on the opening day,

viz., Friday, January 21, was cold and cheerless. However, the game began with a goodly company around the ring. The stumps were pitched, of course, on matting. Priestly was included in the team. Stoddart's luck stuck to him as regards the toss, and the local men compiled 168 in the first innings, Greenwood, Broadbent, M'Gee, Filgate, Hayman, and Ross contributing double figure scores of 11, 15, 11, 35, 12, and 17 respectively. The wicket, it must be stated, was by no means a good one, and the ball got up a great deal. Stoddart and Briggs got the major portion of the wickets. Hearne, who was but sparingly used, obtained a few as well. So also did Storer, and MacLaren had the good luck to capture one, viz., that of Filgate, who got top score. It is quite amusing to see Stoddart take the up-country players with his variation of pace, and they get into hopeless messes in attempting to hit the ball on which he puts such a lot of drag, and which has been nick-named after his success at Glen Innes, the "Glen Innes pusher."

The English fielding, considering the state of the ground, was fairly good. I expect our getting used to the up-country grounds now has a lot to do with the improvement in this respect. On the first day Board, Priestly, and Mason were got rid of very cheaply, and the locals were in high glee about their success. Wainwright, Druce, Hayward, Stoddart, MacLaren, and Briggs were the chief scorers on the

English side, Hayward and Briggs contributing 49 and 30 respectively, while Wainwright scored 16, Stoddart 23, MacLaren 19, and Druce 16. Hayward and Briggs undoubtedly showed the best form. Hayward certainly is our best player on matting wickets. His South African experience stands him in good stead in the up-country matches. Well did Briggs bat also. He seems to have quite come back to his old form, when he was such a dangerous and slashing batsman. He batted so remarkably well both in the second and third Test Matches, and once again on a bad wicket against odds in the fields obtained 30 runs most creditably. MacLaren retired owing to having split his finger during his innings. It was quite amusing to see the local supporters getting terribly excited when the English total neared that of the home team. A curious and false idea home supporters have got hold of in the up-country matches is as regards winning two-day matches on the scores of the first innings. We have been told at several places where we have been headed by the local players in the first inning's score, how pleased they were for beating us in the match! It is quite funny they have not yet realised that these matches, as far as we are concerned, are not taken seriously, inasmuch as the order is invariably drawn from a hat, "change" bowlers begin our attack, and the batsmen indulge in free hitting more than in anything else. The English total in the first

innings in this match reached 179. Thompson, Oakley, and Carracher were the most successful bowlers. Carracher impressed the majority of our team as being the best bowler especially adapted to the matting wickets, his left-hand deliveries puzzling a good many of our crack players. Oakley obtained several wickets with his slow leg-breaks. Their fast bowler was disappointing, for they expected great things from him on the wicket, and he had to rest content with Board and Priestly's wickets. Priestly's stay at the wicket was not of very long duration. We were all disappointed at that, inasmuch as he is so keen to obtain a good knock.

The funniest incident of our innings was the clever way in which Johnny Briggs played for over forty minutes with their wicket-keeper Greenwood, and the clever way in which he "had" him time after time, and made him believe he was out of his ground, can hardly be expressed in words. He was certainly quite at his best, and that is saying a good deal. When the Hamilton second innings commenced, the umpires forgot to change ends and to put on the bails. Some of our men chaffed Jim Phillips a good deal about it, and he had to confess that umpires make mistakes just as the players do. The local batsmen went in a second time, and Broadbent made the top score with 43, De Little and Mercer also making respectable scores. When the game was drawn, the total

was 119. Every batsman, more or less, showed fair form. The local team, as a whole, were about as good a lot as we had met in the up-country matches. The match was a pleasant one, and the residents very hospitable.

We returned to Melbourne from Hamilton on Sunday morning. Melbourne seems to be the favourite city of the team, although Sydney is equally liked. During the few days previous to the beginning of the Fourth Test, after the Victoria *v.* Tasmania match was over, the team once again indulged in net exercise, bowling, batting, and occasionally fielding to keep themselves in condition and form. In the afternoons, several members of the team visited, on different days, small race meetings at the invitation of the stewards of the different clubs. The trotting races at Richmond were a novelty to the majority of us. The best meeting, however, to which we went was that at Williamstown, a few miles out of Melbourne. The course is an exceedingly pretty one, and a cool fresh breeze from the bay promotes the enjoyment. The programme was a very attractive one, and the arrangements, as at other courses, were admirably carried out.

CHAPTER X.

THE FOURTH TEST MATCH.

THE fourth Test Match commenced on January 29, on a Saturday. It was curious to us to find matches commencing on a Saturday in this country, after being used to commencing them at home on Mondays and Thursdays, but the clubs here being anxious to increase their gate money have instituted this somewhat irregular proceeding, as it seems to us, on account of a holiday on Saturday. There can be no doubt that the clubs would suffer from the want of funds, to a great extent, by losing or impairing Saturday's gate, which is reckoned by the authorities to be about as good, on the average, as any two days. However, there are one or two great objections to starting on Saturday in serious matches such as we play here. Firstly, it enhances the element of luck as regards weather by the intervention of a Sunday before play is resumed. Further, the side losing the toss is put on under a disadvantage on account of the extra growth of

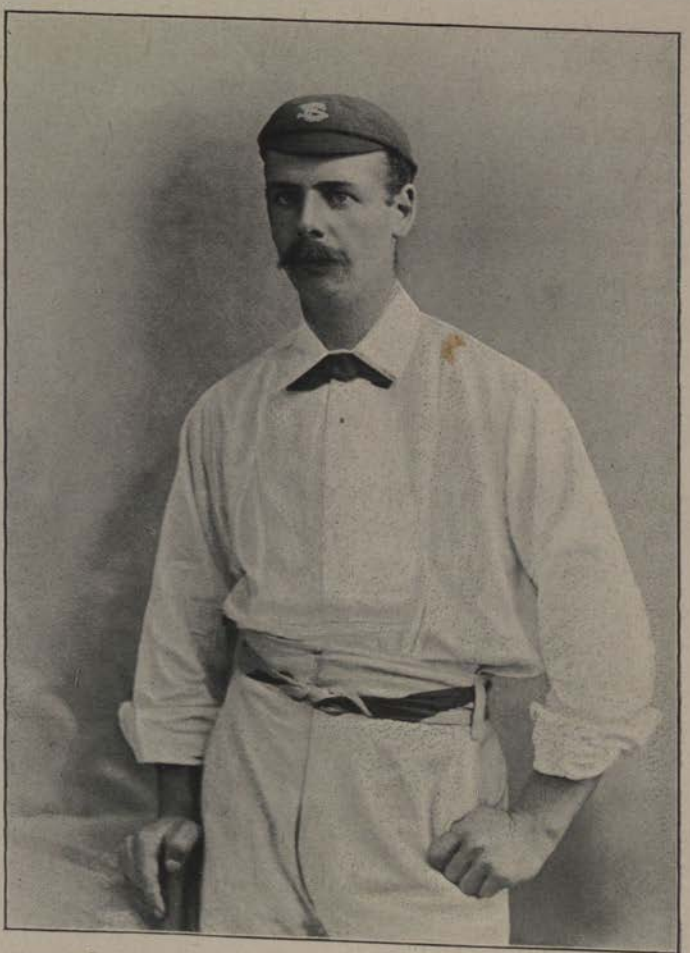

PHOTO BY] T. HAYWARD. [HAWKINS, BRIGHTON.

grass resulting from the non-use of the ground on the Sunday. This objection, though apparently small, plays a very important part on a ground which is so thick in grass as the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The fourth Test Match naturally created much talk and excitement at its commencement, inasmuch as it afforded the Australian side the opportunity of winning the rubber, and the English team of getting level with the Australians. Both teams were very anxious; the Cornstalks were, perhaps, more confident as they were holding the advantage. The Australian team for the fourth Test Match was exactly the same as that which gained such a decisive victory over the English at Adelaide, their names being :—

Victoria—Trott (captain), Trumble, McLeod; South Australia—Darling, Hill, Jones; New South Wales—Gregory, Iredale, Kelly, Howell, Noble, the emergency man for their side on this occasion being Worrall, the Victorian player, who replaced Donnan as twelfth man for the first time; he, no doubt, gained the preference on his meritorious performance of getting a century against N.S.W. in the recent Inter-Colonial fixture at Sydney.

The English team was unfortunately weakened by the absence of Hirst, who, as was previously mentioned, was injured at Adelaide, his place being taken by Wainwright. The composition of our team, therefore, was as follows :—

Stoddart (captain), MacLaren, Wainwright, Hay-

ward, Storer, Druce, Mason, Briggs, Hearne, Richardson, and Ranjitsinhji.

A capital crowd of about 18,000 witnessed the day's play. Fortune once again favoured the Australian captain in the spin of the coin, although many there amongst the Australians themselves who would have liked to have seen the toss won by the English skipper, in order to equalise the luck in this respect. The Australian innings was as usual started by McLeod and Darling, and they faced, not the usual pair of bowlers, viz., Richardson and Briggs, but Hearne and Richardson. The English captain, by a stroke of genius, put on Hearne on a wicket that was at the start a trifle slow and damp. This was an undoubted piece of clever judgment and generalship.

The start for the Australians was a sorry one. The first downfall, however, was the result of bad luck, McLeod having played a ball on to his pads, and having the misfortune to see it roll on to his stumps. Upon Hill joining Darling, the English team again became anxious, inasmuch as they both opened very auspiciously, and gave their supporters good reason to believe from their stylish play, that another long partnership would be the result of their combined efforts. However, when the score had not much advanced, Darling was neatly caught in the slips off Richardson, having failed to time his favourite off-drive between point and cover. Gregory, who followed, was yorked first ball by the Surrey express,

the batsman being taken in the pace. Iredale also secured an "egg," Storer snapping him at the wicket. Noble, who followed, after subscribing four was cleverly trapped by Hearne, he catching and bowling him from an injudicious stroke; the bowler tempted the same batsman twice the same over to make the faulty stroke, with all but success. Five wickets for 32 was indeed a most unfortunate start for Australia, considering their previous performances in the other matches. It was a veritable collapse. The English side were much cheered by their good fortune, and Stoddart's manœuvre of putting on Hearne came off remarkably well, as he secured three out of the five fallen wickets. Trott and Hill then carried the score to 58 at lunch, of which Trott's share was 7. Hill was playing, however, with nerve, judgment, and pluck, and showed remarkable confidence considering the state of the game. After lunch, the English team met with only one immediate success. Trott, without any addition to his score, was caught at the wickets. He did not inspire the Australian supporters with much confidence, as he was playing a very cramped game, undoubtedly owing to the wretched start of his side. Six wickets for 59 did not promise much for the Australian prospects of a win.

However, a different tale has to be chronicled after Trumble came to the wickets, and his partnership with Hill produced 165 runs, a partnership which was destined to play the chief part in securing for

Australia the rubber. Trumble's share of that item was 46, and too much praise cannot be given to him for the coolness he displayed at probably the most trying time throughout these Test Matches. There will be no questioning now as to Trumble's utility to his side as a batsman, for though he cannot be classed among the great players of this country as a bat, his judgment, determination, and pluck will bear formidable comparison with Australia's pluckiest and greatest players. He fought well for his side, and though his performance as regards scientific cricket was dwarfed by the more brilliant tactics of his partner, he manfully kept up his end, and did not miss an opportunity to score off the loose ones. His ultimate dismissal resulted from a good stroke off a bad ball, Mason catching him at square leg brilliantly. In quite the early part of his innings an appeal for a catch at the wickets was unanimously made by the field, which was, however, decided in his favour. The umpire, I believe, gave him the benefit of the doubt. Storer again came in for much abuse from the spectators from all parts of the ground for this appeal.

The Englishmen were much abused in this respect by the public before whom they played, and every appeal, by either their bowlers or their wicket-keeper, was met with nothing but groans and hisses from them. A perfect roar of indignation was the outcome from all quarters whenever the

umpire gave a decision against them. The only reasonable conclusion one can arrive at, judging from such demonstration of feeling, was that the public are of opinion that appeals were made with the idea of bustling the Australian batsmen out, thus imputing unfair motives to the English team. It was very noticeable, also, that when the Australian bowlers or stumpers suffered the same fate at the hands of the umpires, the crowd was disposed to jeer —not at the players making the appeal, but at the umpire who dared to give the decision against their men. Such inconsistency, to put it mildly, is hardly fair to the visiting team. Players on either side are at perfect liberty to appeal if they think fit, and therefore they ought not to be treated in this uncivil and unjust manner. Several of the decisions given against Storer's appeals, however, have been, to say the least, very questionable, and the mistakes have been, not on the part of Storer, but on the part of the referees of the game. It is just as well to again remind the public that umpires, like players, are liable to err.

Kelly then joined Hill when the score stood at 223, and another determined stand was made against our bowlers, and the two carried their bats at the end of the day's play, Kelly being not out for 22, and Clem Hill 182.

On the resumption of play next day, Clem Hill's great innings came to a close after he had added

six to his over-night's score. Thus ended one of the greatest innings that has been played by a batsman under the most trying circumstances. This innings of Hill's is undoubtedly one of the most brilliant expositions of batting that I have ever seen. In this innings there was only one flaw that could be urged against it—a chance to Storer off Hearne when he had made 65. Storer in his eagerness snapped at the ball which otherwise would have landed safely into short slip's hands. Considering the pace and ease with which he scored against all our bowlers, it was surprising to find that he only made two miss-hits throughout his long innings. One was the chance alluded to, and the other was a safe snick in the slips, in attempting a cut. At no time did he appear in difficulties, nor did he throw away a single chance to augment the score of his side. Our bowlers seemed helpless, and he simply paralysed them by his magnificent on-side play. He must have scored no less than 120 runs on the on-side. All good players will necessarily score off bad balls, but the exceptional ability of Clem Hill to place balls on the leg side, enables him to score on that side with much ease off good length balls, and balls that are often on the stumps. His off-side play in this particular innings was decidedly an improvement on his other displays against us, and he put into his square cut and his cover drive greater power than we had seen

him put into these strokes before. It was, indeed, a most stylish, finished, and aggressive display at a time when things were not too rosy for his side. It is an innings that he can well be proud of, inasmuch as one can safely say it was an innings worthy of "W. G." Clem Hill, like Darling, shows a great partiality for fast bowling, and consequently plays Richardson with consummate ease. The only bowler who occasionally troubles him on our side is Hearne, but he seldom has the satisfaction of actually beating him. Both at the end of the first day's play and at the termination of his innings he received a warm and loud ovation, and no player has ever more richly deserved it.

Jones and Kelly knocked up a few by hard hitting. Kelly ultimately was secured by Briggs, and Jones by Hearne. Jones for the first time in Test Matches made a useful 20. The Australian score reached 323, Hearne securing six wickets at the very moderate cost—considering the wicket—of 98 runs. Richardson obtained two, and Briggs and Storer one apiece. Hearne's bowling on a perfect wicket was quite the most remarkable feature of our cricket. He kept an admirable length throughout the match, and with the exception of Hill, all the Australian batsmen found it difficult to play him. It is quite pleasing to note this bowler's more or less consistent success on Australian wickets. I think, with increased

experience of these wickets, he would be as successful as any bowler in this country, inasmuch as he has already begun to follow the methods of Australian bowlers as regards using head-work. The English fielding both in ground work and catching was excellent, and was far in advance of what they exhibited on the Adelaide Oval. Druce in particular was exceptionally brilliant. Others who showed fine work were Storer, Wainwright, Mason, MacLaren, and Briggs, as well as Hayward; Stoddart at slip was very safe.

The Englishmen commenced batting a few minutes before lunch on Monday, but the regular order of going in was changed as far as the first pair was concerned, Wainwright being substituted for Mason. The former opened the innings with MacLaren. With the total at 14, MacLaren was bowled by a magnificent break-back by Howell, who commenced the bowling with Trott at the pavilion end. Trott evidently put himself on with the idea of securing a wicket with his tricky leg-breaks before the batsmen got set. The innings was resumed after lunch, and four runs later Wainwright was nicely taken by Howell at point off the Australian captain, whose manœuvres succeeded capitally. The start of the English innings, it will be seen, was not a very happy one. A moderate stand was then made by Hayward and myself, when Trumble got me caught in the slips in his first over. Storer,

who followed me, did not trouble the scorers more than to the extent of two notches. Another small stand was made by Hayward and Druce, and then the former, who had contributed 22, was caught by Gregory low down at cover. Druce and Mason added a few to the very poor total, when both were secured by the Adelaide fast bowler. Stoddart and Briggs added useful scores of 17 and 21, the latter being not-out, having played a really capital innings. Stoddart, again, was unfortunate in being caught off a good hit at third man. It was his first attempt at a hard drive, the ball travelling straight to the man. Hearne secured a 0, but Richardson again hit up 20 with Briggs as his partner. His success as a batsman in the Test Matches, considering his capacity as a bowler, is surprising, but there can be no doubt that it is entirely due to his nerve and pluck, and he certainly goes in with the confidence of being able to hit up a useful score in his own unsystematic way, as he calls it. The first-innings total of England amounted to a paltry 174. The highest score was contributed by Mason, namely, 30.

This was undoubtedly England's worst performance out in the colonies, and was a weak and wretched exhibition of batting. With the exception of MacLaren, who was dismissed by a fine ball, the rest of the batmen got out purely by bad cricket. The bowling in this innings was not of that quality

to cause the dismissal of such a strong batting side, for such an insignificant total, considering how well the pitch played. Jones proved the most successful bowler, with four wickets for 56. Trott and Trumble secured two apiece, Howell and Noble one each. Of the Australian bowling, I cannot speak in the same laudatory manner as at Adelaide, for they were at no time bowling with the length and judgment they displayed in the last Test. In summing up their bowling in our first innings, I can only say that they bowled up to the ordinary first-class, but not up to international form. The fielding was excellent, and there was no fault to be found in their catching. Jones again proved himself a tower of strength at mid-off, and Gregory at cover was brilliant in the extreme. Kelly was even better at the wickets than at Adelaide, but he did not get an opportunity of distinguishing himself to any noticeable extent. Howell, McLeod, and Noble worked untiringly in the field.

On Monday evening, with half an hour left for play, the Englishmen followed on, for the third time running, against a considerable majority. The light, which had been none too bright, was decidedly, in my opinion, unfit for play, and the batsmen were asked by our captain to protest against the light, both to the Australian skipper and to the umpires. The umpires, however, decided that the game was to proceed. It was quite pleasing to note

that the spectators and the representatives of the press, who were on the ground, were of the same opinion as the players on both sides, as to the unfitness of the light to play. The press, in a most impartial spirit, in the issue of the morning's papers the next day, strongly asserted that the light was very bad. That two such fine umpires as Bannerman and Phillips should have commited such an error—such an obvious error, too—was surprising, but after all, very human. I remember an occasion in England in 1896, when, owing to a similar error made by the umpires in proceeding with the game on a wicket that was rendered by rain totally unfit, the chance of victory of the fielding side was rendered practically hopeless, as circumstances turned out afterwards. I refer to the memorable Test Match in which the Australians played at the Oval in '96. The umpires decided that the ground was fit to play on after a very heavy downpour of rain, when the ground was unfit for the bowlers to bowl upon, and for the fieldsmen to hold the wet and greasy ball, and it was almost impossible for the batsmen to stand firmly on their legs, so slippery was the ground. However, it handicapped the fielding side to a much greater extent than the side batting, with the result that the Australians never recovered their lost ground owing to this irreparable mistake on the part of the umpires. It has often occurred to me whether it would not be advisable

for the authorities to change the rule empowering the umpires to call upon the players, whenever they thought fit, to proceed with the game, so as to enable the two captains to have a say in the matter, and to refer to the umpires in case they disagreed. Umpires are often, at home, led away by considerations that are not a part of the game, and, therefore, I think that some such remedy would, to a certain extent, be beneficial in removing some of the evils that crop up from time to time.

As to the error committed in this match, there is no need for me to say that it was a *bonâ-fide* mistake, such a one which at all times we are all liable to make in our different spheres of action. Further, happily, the incident did not in any way materially affect the ultimate result of the match. The man to suffer most, however, was the player who, unfortunately for us, got out that evening. For, bearing in mind that he had to fight for a place in the representative team, and had been out of luck, or form, it was unfortunate that he should not have had a fair trial in this, his second innings. It is certain that his confidence must have been affected to a certain extent by the poor light.

Our second innings was opened by Wainwright and Briggs. Wainwright, unfortunately for us, was caught by MacLeod. Next day Briggs and MacLaren made a useful stand for the second wicket, Briggs playing capitally until a "long hop" from Howell

brought about his dismissal by Darling catching him. MacLaren did not survive long after my advent, Iredale catching him in the slips. His 45 was made up by some brilliant strokes, particularly off Jones, to square and long leg. He was decidedly lucky, however, in being missed in his innings.

Hayward and I added a good few runs to our total, when, having played a low full pitch towards leg, I had the misfortune to see it bound off my left foot on to the off stump, and thus I lost my wicket. Hayward, after scoring 25, was caught by Trumble off a poor stroke. Hayward made some fine off drives, so did Stoddart and Druce who followed him, and made scores of 25 and 16 respectively. Stoddart, also, had the misfortune to cut a wide ball from Jones on to his wicket. Druce's downfall was the result of a bad stroke towards point.

Next day Mason and Storer, who had made a plucky stand over night, and had scores of over 20 to their names, easily succumbed to Howell and McLeod. Hearne and Richardson did not add much to our total. The innings closed for 263. Storer, it should be mentioned, had his right-hand fore-finger much damaged whilst keeping wickets, and, as the bone was fractured, he was even more severely handicapped than I was at Adelaide. Few people can imagine the plucky way he was striving to do his best whilst suffering great pain, both in keeping the wickets and batting subsequently.

Howell, Jones, Trumble, and McLeod secured two wickets each, Trott and Noble captured two between them. The bowling again, was not of the highest calibre, but bad batting with some, and bad luck with others, brought about our downfall in this our second innings, but the element of bad luck certainly predominated compared to bad cricket. The Australian fielding, as far as ground work was concerned, was particularly good; but their catching, like ours at Adelaide, was faulty, and, curiously enough, some of their best fields missed the chances, of which there were about five dropped.

Wanting 115 to win, the Australian innings was opened by McLeod and Darling, our bowlers to oppose them being Briggs and Hearne. Both batsmen commenced scoring briskly, Darling going particularly strong. Briggs was severely handled, and they did not find Hearne difficult either, although with his admirable length he kept them quiet. After 50, and finding Briggs too expensive and to the batsmen's liking, Hayward was put on, off whom Druce caught Darling from a careless stroke. The uncertainty of cricket was once again made manifest when Hill retired for a cipher in his second innings. What a difference there is between 188 and 0, against the same bowling and on the same pitch! During the final partnership of Gregory and McLeod, Mason and I were put on, but met with no success. Gregory and McLeod knocked off

the remaining runs without being separated, thus giving Australia a magnificent victory for the third time, of eight wickets and the rubber in the Test Matches as well. Hayward obtained the two wickets that fell, and he bowled very well, and was rewarded by getting rid of two of our most dreaded opponents.

The result of the match, however, was never in doubt after 50 had been scored by the first pair of batsmen. McLeod played by far the best innings he has played against us. He scored at a quick rate, and played brilliantly. It was a very fine display in every sense, and contained a great variety of strokes. Gregory also played well for his 21. The victory was hailed with acclamation by those present, and heartily ought the Australians to be congratulated on winning back from English cricketers their lost laurels of 1894 and 1896.

In reviewing the match briefly, the cricket on the whole must be regarded as poor, for there were throughout the match only two performances that were worthy of particular recognition, namely, Hill's great innings of 188 for the winners, and Hearne's six wickets for 98 for the losers. There can be no doubt to my mind that the match was won, giving all credit to Trumble for his timely help, by the young South Australian, Clement Hill. He can well say, "Alone I did it," and to him the oft-

quoted phrase, "Veni, vidi, vici," can be well applied. Next to his batting, Charley McLeod's batting in the Australian second innings was indeed high-class.

The English batting in the first innings was as poor a display as it is possible to get from representative players. It is, without exception, the tamest batting I have ever seen. The fact that the highest score in the first innings was 30 is a sufficient proof of its lameness. The bowling was of ordinary first-class nature, but not of that class as to justify such a feeble show on the part of the visiting batsmen. Most of the players got out through wretched strokes or bad judgment. In the second innings, however, it must be admitted, in justice to our players, that a good deal of bad luck was experienced. It is difficult to define bad luck at cricket, but when a player is got out, not by the merit of the opposing side, or by his own bad play, it can be well termed bad luck or accident. Therefore, it was that I mentioned bad luck in connection with the dismissal of Wainwright, Briggs, Stoddart, MacLaren, and I may without egotism include myself, in our second innings. I was roughly handled by critics for saying that Briggs was unfortunately caught off a "long hop" by Darling, and it was alleged on behalf of Howell that the man was specially put to catch Briggs from such balls. All that I can say is, that it is a clever bowler who succeeds in placing his field

MEMBERS' AND LADIES' PAVILIONS ON THE SYDNEY GROUND.

for long hops, and keeps bowling them with success.

MacLaren got out through having one of the many small insects, which troubled the players a great deal, going into his eye at the time he made the fatal stroke. This incident has been regarded as a lame excuse, and has given some merciless and bigotted critics fine opportunities of caricaturing the greatest bat of the day; but considering what a great player he is, and what services he has done for his side on this tour, it was a great misfortane to us that such should have been the case. It is alleged that he had two lives accorded to him before he was dismissed; but the dropped chances were the result of poor cricket on the part of the fieldsmen, and although you can say the batsman's play was faulty, you must put it down to still feebler cricket on the part of the fieldsmen to miss their opportunity. Missed catches are invariably the result of bad cricket. Such an incident as MacLaren was troubled with is the result of accident. It would not do for the English players to urge that the Australians would probably have had a harder task to win the third Test Match but for their bad catching, which cost them over 200 runs. Then again, Stoddart and myself played on, as did McLeod on the other side, but it could hardly have been the result of the bowlers' tactics, and neither of the strokes can be termed bad play. Lastly, the English team had undoubtedly

much ill-luck to contend against, as several of the men were injured—notably Storer and Richardson. Hirst was unable to play altogether, owing to his injury at Adelaide.

These excuses are made, not with the idea of proving that the Englishmen would have won, but with a view of stating bald facts, but for which the English players, in all probability, would have been able to have given the Australians a much harder task to win this game. But with all the element of bad luck thrown in, there can be no doubt to my mind that the Australians' superiority was most marked in this game also, and though the bowling had but litle to do with the winning of this match, the rubber was most genuinely and deservedly won.

The players, together with the officials and other members of the club, had an informal meeting, where the President of the Melbourne Cricket Club, a fine and true old sportsman, and an enthusiast of the game, Frank Grey Smith, in a speech which was full of grace and courtesy, of sportsmanlike feeling and of good taste, congratulated the Australians on their great achievement, and sympathised with the Englishmen in a kind and proper spirit for their reverses.

Mr. Stoddart, in acknowledging the toast of his team, frankly acknowledged the superiority of the Australian players over his team, and attributed

the winning of the rubber to the great excellence of the Australian bowling, which, he said, was unfortunately, superior to his own, and complimented the Australians upon having as fine a team as Australia has ever had in all departments of the game.

Harry Trott, in a brief and humorous speech, stated that although Mr. Stoddart said that the rubber was won on the whole through the instrumentality of the Australian bowling, on this occasion Clem Hill's batting, helped by Trumble's stand, won the match; an opinion which I similarly expressed, and for which, because it came from a member of the English team, I was criticised in the usual manner. There is a great tendency here to introduce in all matters of cricket, where opinion differs, both the personal element and bitter partisan feeling.

Now that the rubber is lost and won, a few figures showing wherein the great superiority of the home players existed over their rivals from across the seas, will be found interesting. In order to get at the real merit of batsmen and bowlers of both sides, all first-class averages are included in these tables of players taking part in Test games.

BATTING AND BOWLING AVERAGES.

After the Third Test Match the averages were in batting as follows :—

ENGLISH.	BATTING.	AUSTRALIAN.	
Ranjitsinhji	83	Hill	59
MacLaren	64	Darling	48
Storer	48	McLeod	42
Mason	30	Gregory	38
Hayward	27	Iredale	34
Hirst	25	Noble	32
Druce	23	Trott	26
Stoddart	19	Trumble	22
Briggs	18	Kelly	18
Total	337	*Total*	319

Advantage of 18 points for the visiting players.

[Wainwright left out, because no Australian player can be opposed to him, who has taken part in two Test games as a bat.]

ENGLISH.	BOWLING.	AUSTRALIAN.	
Hearne	25	Noble	20
Hayward	31	Jones	24
Richardson	32	Trott	25
Hirst	61	Howell	26
Briggs	64	McKibbin	31
Total	213	*Total*	126

Australians 87 points to the good in bowling.

[Trumble and McLeod are left out, as no English bowler to oppose them, which gives them a still further advantage.]

After the Fourth Test Match the figures read thus:—

ENGLISH.	BATTING.	AUSTRALIAN.	
Ranjitsinhji	75	Hill	65
MacLaren	58	McLeod	44
Storer	41	Darling	44
Mason	29	Gregory	36
Hayward	26	Iredale	32
Hirst	25	Noble	29
Briggs	23	Trott	24
Druce	22	Trumble	24
Stoddart	19	Kelly	20
Total	318	*Total*	318

Neither side holds any advantage.

[Wainwright, Richardson, and Hearne on one side, and McKibbin, Jones, and Howell on the other left out.]

ENGLISH.	BOWLING.	AUSTRALIAN.	
Hearne	24	Noble	20
Hayward.	30	Jones	24
Richardson	33	Trott	25
Hirst	61	Trumble	30
Briggs.	64	McKibbin	31
Total . .	212	*Total* . .	130

Australian advantage, 82 points; and that, without including McLeod and Howell, shows their immense superiority.

It will thus be seen that, in batting, though the team failed as a whole, they were able to hold their own with their rivals, notwithstanding the fact that they had more subtle and dangerous deliveries to contend against than the Australian batsmen. But the failure of the team as a whole in batting, though due in some measure to some of the players being out of form, was also due to the fact of the fine form of the Australian trundlers, who are vastly superior to ours, specially on these wickets.

In fielding there was not much to choose between the sides, although the form of both the sides was rather in and out; perhaps the English fielding latterly, especially in catching, fell off a bit. In the last game, however, the Australian batting against our bowling was vastly superior to the English batting against the Australian bowling. Thus it is, in my opinion, quite clear that Australia has easily repossessed itself of the ashes of English cricket from the latest invading team.

CHAPTER XI.

SOME CLOSING MATCHES.

THE visiting team returned to Sydney from Melbourne after the Fourth Test to try conclusions against New South Wales. In this return encounter a couple of days' practice previous to the match was indulged in. The spare time on those days was again utilised by different members in seeing the different sights round about Sydney, which is far better off in that respect than any other notable city in Australia. With its harbour and the different roads leading to the ocean, Coogee Bay, and other seaside resorts, and beautiful drives on all sides, it affords a visitor much store for recreation.

The match commenced on February 5. The English team was much weakened by the absence of both Storer and Richardson, and it was unquestionably the weakest side that donned the flannels for England in the colonies. It was a severe blow to lose our fast bowler and our first wicket-keeper, who also is an exellent change bowler. Richardson was

advised to give his injured side a long rest, and Storer's finger, which was so badly injured in the Fourth Test, prevented him from taking part in the match.

The N.S. Welshmen, having won the toss, commenced their batting with Iredale and Donnan, Briggs and Hearne starting our bowling. Before many runs had been scored, Iredale, in trying to hook a ball off Briggs, was caught by Stoddart at mid-on. It was an object lesson to several of us not to attempt a similar stroke on these fast Australian wickets, and particularly before you have got into timing the ball. A fairly useful stand was then made by Donnan and Noble. Donnan played quite a brisk innings, and made some fine cover drives. Noble's forward play was alike admirable. Both these players sent the ball frequently to the track by beautiful drives all along the ground, and both of them appeared likely to score considerably. Noble, however, after scoring a meritorious 34, in trying to hit Hayward, who superseded Hearne, unnecessarily hard, was caught at third man. On McKenzie joining Donnan, the latter resumed his patient method of playing, and let his partner do the scoring.

McKenzie shaped most confidently from the start, and began to play a fast and hard game from the commencement of his long innings. I have not the least doubt that this hard-hitting game is most

natural to him, and his strong and muscular physique was never meant to adopt the cramped and slow game which he displayed in our first match at Sydney. All the bowlers, with the exception of Hearne, were treated by him with but little respect; Hearne being the only one to keep him quiet. He punished Briggs and Hayward most severely; his straight drives on both sides of the bowler were extremely severe. He made many lofty drives, which were admirably placed from the fieldsmen in the country. McKenzie distinctly showed improvement in his on-side play, and he must have scored very nearly half his runs, if not more, by forcing the ball mid-wicket. His display contained two blemishes, one of which, however, was a difficult catch, which was misjudged by the fieldsman.

Donnan's contribution amounted to 41, and after his dismissal Gregory helped McKenzie to add a few runs, but the play of the Australian midget was tame and uninteresting, and he never appeared likely to make many runs, although his placing in the slips occasionally was neat. Trumper, his successor, had again a very short stay, as he received a dangerous ball from Mason, which broke his wicket. McKenzie's fine innings then terminated by Hayward catching him at third man off a miss-hit. His play was throughout dashing, and he well merited the loud applause of which he was the recipient. McKenzie's last partner was Pye, who, while the

big N.S. Welshman was scoring apace, was content to keep up his wicket. Kelly again fell a victim to our skipper. Newell didn't trouble the scorers to any extent. McKibbin, however, hit up a useful 20 with Pye, and after his dismissal another fine stand was made against the English bowling by Howell and Pye. Howell hit in an astonishing manner, and his strokes were brilliant in the extreme, and though risky, and even at times flukey, his 48 was a delightful piece of batting, and worked the spectators to a high pitch of excitement. Pye had, all along his innings, played in a useful, though perhaps inelegant manner. His chief strokes are a square cut and extra cover drive, and he often forces a single, and sometimes a couple of good length balls, just outside his leg stump. If a ball is short, he can hook pretty effectively. His score of 80 not out represented sound cricket.

The total of the Australians reached 415. The English bowlers were very severely handled, and the two men on the injured list were much missed. Mason came out with the best figures, and undoubtedly bowled the best. He certainly kept his length very well under trying circumstances, particularly against Howell, who was flogging the rest to the palings, and sometimes over. Next to him Stoddart came out best with two wickets for 50. Briggs, Hearne, and Wainwright divided the other wickets between them. Each one of these kept at

times admirable length, but certainly lacked "devil." They don't appear on the perfect Sydney pitch very dangerous or deadly. The English bowlers undoubtedly bowled far too much on the stumps. The Australian batsmen are particularly clever in turning the good balls to the on side. It is curious that so many bowlers who have been so successful on the English side at Home have not yet found out that it is futile to bowl on the stumps so often after the batsman has got the much needed start. Board, who kept the wickets, worked splendidly and was very sound behind the stumps, and certainly demonstrated that he was Storer's equal at the game. It should be noted here that Wainwright obtained his first wicket in Australia in a first-class match by dismissing Donnan. Hirst, owing to his injury on the left side, was unable to bowl in the match, and his fast deliveries would undoubtedly have helped to get the last men out, who, generally speaking, don't relish the quick pace bowlers. The English fielding was fairly safe thoughout, taking catching and ground fielding as a whole. Some members of the team, however, have lately shown a decided falling off in their catching. Hirst has been singularly unfortunate in this respect.

Mason and Wainwright then commenced our first innings ; our start, though a trifle better than that of our opponents, was very moderate, Mason once again failing on the Sydney ground. Wainwright

and I had a lively time at the wickets while it lasted, both of us scoring evenly until I was dismissed at short leg off Noble. Wainwright obtained his 50 after batting beautifully and well for the first time in a match of importance, and he certainly showed exceptionally brilliant form, his cutting and his cover drives were perfectly timed, and upon retiring he was heartily cheered and congratulated by his comrades. Hirst didn't assist Hayward by a long stay at the wickets, and it was left to Hayward and Druce to stem our tide of disasters. Both played excellently. Hayward has undoubtedly of late blossomed out into his English form, and the same applies to Druce in this innings. Hayward's driving and Druce's forward play and cutting were very pretty and crisp, and both these players deserved every credit for their excellent show on this occasion. Hayward was at last out, after scoring 63. Stoddart was cheaply got rid of, and Briggs, after knocking a useful 18, also, succumbed to McKibbin.

MacLaren, who had been indisposed during the day, then commenced his partnership with Druce. The next day, when play was resumed, Druce, after scoring a century, was caught by Noble off Trumper. This was Druce's first century in first-class matches, and it was worthy of that brilliant player. He showed a great variety of strokes, and he executed them in his usually finished and artistic

manner. Seeing that the end was near after Druce's and Stoddart's dismissal, MacLaren hit out in a fearless manner, so that he might be able as quickly as possible to do the best for his side; and he thus unfortunately lost his wicket in attempting to force a deceptive ball of Noble's.

The English innings closed for 387, 28 behind that of our opponents. Noble came out with by far the best average, his six wickets costing 131 runs, and considering the beautiful pitch on which the innings had been played, it was a fine achievement. McKibbin obtained three for 108, and Trumper one. Newell, Pye, and Donnan didn't succeed in their task, and they all bowled, with the exception of Pye, perhaps with not much excellence. Noble undoubtedly bowled with excellent judgment, and was extremely deceptive with his slow balls, and time after time he took the batsmen in very cleverly. Kelly at the wickets was again very good; no doubt the pace of the Sydney ground is more agreeable to him, and enables him to do himself full justice. This hard working and conscientious cricketer deserved all the success he attained. The fielding of the N.S. Welshmen was excellent; Gregory, McKenzie, Noble, and Trumper being seen to much advantage. Their catching was decidedly better than ours.

The second innings of the Sydney men was again opened by the same pair of batsmen as

previously, but before many runs had been obtained Iredale was clean bowled by Hearne, being beaten by the pace of the ball. Donnan and McKenzie then made a lengthy stand. Donnan again commenced very strongly, making the cover drive very frequently to the palings, the ball travelling with great speed. McKenzie again gave a forcible display of clean and vigorous batting, and compiled his runs with precisely similar strokes as in the first innings; his dismissal was caused by an exceptionally hot catch at mid-on, Conningham, the Sydney twelfth man, bringing off a brilliant catch off Mason. Pye and Donnan both added a few; Donnan who had commenced, as previously stated, scoring fast, in the early part of his innings slowed down very considerably after his 30.

The slow rate of scoring angered the crowd, and they commenced passing uncomplimentary remarks upon his method of play. Having borne this for a considerable period, he was no longer able to withstand it. Finally, therefore, he lashed out at one of Hearne's good length balls, and was easily caught at mid-off. Considering what a resolute and patient player Donnan is, and one also that is not easily influenced by outside remarks of the spectators, it is a strong proof how the "barracking" must have annoyed the player, and that it was of a very objectionable and strong nature.

Noble and Pye both fell to Hearne; Trumper, l

was glad to see, was able to show finished form in his score of 23, and greatly assisted Gregory in raising their score. Gregory had gone in after Donnan's dismissal, and up to lunch had batted in a lame and nervous manner. He timed the ball incorrectly, and was unable to put any power in his strokes. After luncheon, however, for a time he was again shaky, but the bowlers were unable to dislodge him. After his score had reached 40 he suddenly blossomed out into his very best form, and never gave the fielding the semblance of a chance of getting rid of him until he compiled a magnificent score of 171, by some of the most charming cricket it is possible to play. Losing patience, and perhaps his stamina, he practically threw away his wicket. Every imaginable stroke behind the wicket, in front of point, drives past the bowler, glances and hooks, were all executed to a nicety. Pulls were indulged in, high drives were shown, cutting of every description, and risks of all sorts were taken by him with comparative ease and much safety; and in this innings he gave me an idea for the first time of his truest form. No other Australian has, to my mind, shown such resource and variety of strokes during our tour, and considering that at least one of our opponents almost in every first-class match has scored a century against our bowlers, it will be readlly understood that this must have been a really great performance.

Kelly was again successful. In batting, Newell was Gregory's chief help, and for some reason or other the bowlers didn't succeed in getting him out; his not-out innings of 68 was a useful rather than a clever effort. McKibbin hit up 39, and it was a good innings. His drives and his glances were very effective, but the performance of the last player, Howell, to a great extent dwarfed the capital display of the others, with the imaginable 95 in the exceptionally quick time of fifty-nine minutes, and more vigorous, well-timed and superb hitting it would be difficult to imagine, and would be a comparision with the displays of any hitters the world has ever produced. He hit Briggs, Hayward, Hearne, and Stoddart over the palings and all round the wicket, and it was as sensational as it was fine; and he worked the spectators to the highest possible pitch of enthusiasm and admiration. His opponents, and the bowlers particularly, were bewildered and astonished, and gazed with admiration and almost joy at his grand batting. His batting, though fearless and risky, considering the pace with which he was going, was astonishingly sound. With the exception of the glance and the hook, he showed nearly every stroke; but his high driving was undoubtedly the feature of his innings. It would be impossible for anyone to give a correct idea of the brilliance of his play in writing, and those who missed seeing him on that day, undoubtedly missed a great cricketing feat, for never could such hitters

as Massie, Lyons, Bonnor, Thornton, or Jessop have surpassed the innings of his in superlative merit.

The second innings closed for 574, leaving England over 600 to win. Hearne came out by far away the best record on our side. His six wickets cost 126 runs. Mason again did well in bowling, though his figures, compared with those of Hearne, don't show to much advantage. He bowled with much precision, as usual. Briggs had the satisfaction of getting the remaining wickets. Other bowlers were tried in vain to dislodge the batsmen. Several blemishes were made in the field ; but considering the trying outing for close upon a couple of days, however, it was not surprising to find a slight falling off in catching. Board again did remarkably well at the wickets, although he had not much chance of distinguishing himself in particular.

MacLaren and Wainwright commenced our formidable task in the second innings, of endeavouring to obtain the necessary amount. A magnificent start was made, over 100 being notched before the first wicket fell, Wainwright playing beautifully before he succumbed to McKibbin. His share of the venture was 68. His play on both sides of the wicket was admirable, and it clearly proved to us that he was recovering his form and luck at last. MacLaren and I carried the score to 258 for the first wicket before another disaster occurred to our side next

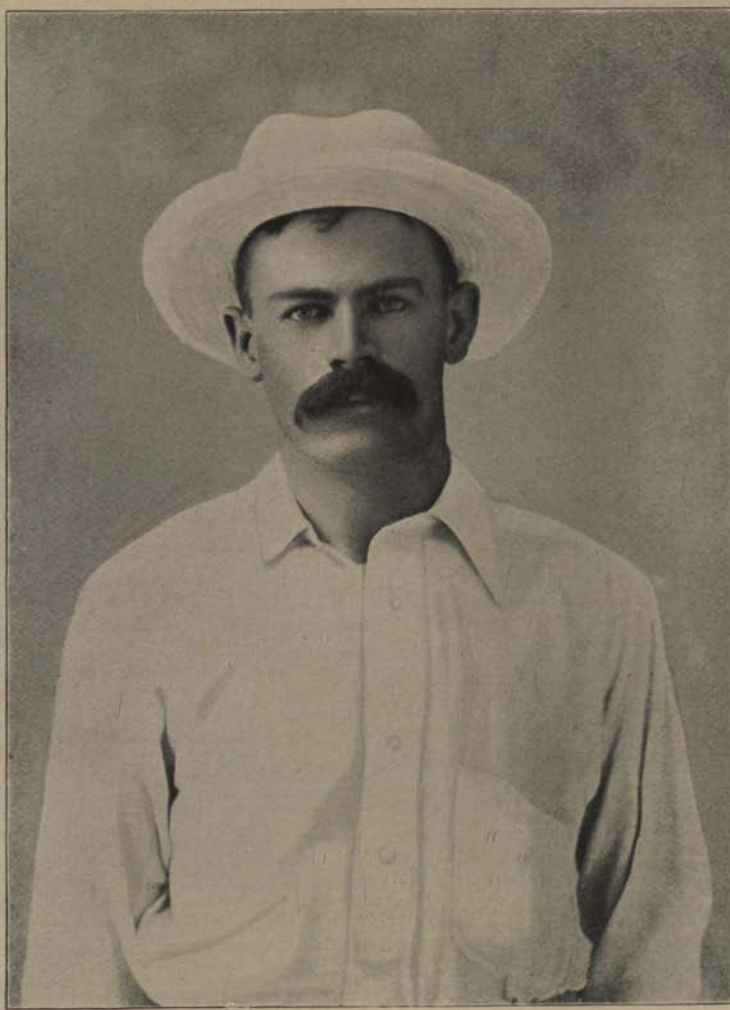

PHOTO BY] [TALMA, MELBOURNE.

J. DARLING

day. On this, the last day of the match, namely, the 11th, on the commencement of play, Donnan commenced bowling. Donnan bowls round the wicket, and is apt to cut up the pitch. Considering the pitch had worn over six days previous to this, his method of running after delivery tended to damage it very considerably. In the first innings he was very nearly the last change tried in our innings of 387, and he was not utilised on February 10, when other bowlers had been changed and chopped. It was a curious proceeding, to say the least, to have put him on at the commencement of a day's play, in preference to such as Noble, Howell, and McKibbin. Both MacLaren and myself appealed to the umpire, and the player in question respectively, as to the fairness of his method; but the result was futile. It is a singular fact that both MacLaren and myself got out within a few minutes of each other at the same end at which he was bowling, and quite early during the day's play; and it is also singular that Donnan was taken off immediately after our dismissal. His analysis read: 7 overs, 3 maidens, and 9 runs.

In this chapter I will only add that I disapproved of the action, as I showed plainly to the players then, as being unfair; and however accidental it may have been, it was hardly necessary to have asked such a bowler of Donnan's style and capacity to have commenced bowling at such a stage of the game. If this account had been of my own personal reminiscences

of cricket, I might easily bring other evidences on this point to show that such a proceeding is not altogether above suspicion. I was caught off Howell, near the umpire, at short leg. MacLaren's innings of 140 was in every way worthy of the great player that he is, and he once again demonstrated his partiality for the Sydney ground and the N.S.W. bowling. His strokes were as perfect as ever, and the timing was so accurate that the ball travelled to the boundary at lightning speed. Indeed, on the fifth day's play he treated all the Australian bowlers with perfect ease, and did exactly as he liked with all their subtle deliveries. After that, however, with the exception of Tom Hayward, the batsmen gave a feeble resistance to the bowling. Hirst, Druce, Mason, Briggs, and Board were captured by Noble, Hearne being the only one to fall to Howell's lot. Hayward carried out his bat for an excellent 64, and it was even, indeed, bad luck that none of the batsmen who followed him gave him even moderate help. He played stylishly and most correctly.

England lost by considerably over 200. Noble, Howell, and McKibbin obtained six, three, and one wicket respectively, the others again failing to meet with any success. Kelly's wicket-keeping was again fine, N.S.W. thus gaining a meritorious victory by a large majority in the return fixture. Noble bowled again with great success, and undoubtedly achieved two fine performances in the match. He was the

only bowler on the Australian side that proved a tower of strength, and was watched with much respect.

The next two days the team had a very pleasant match, which was, unfortunately, interfered with by rain, against the combined universities, on the University ground in Sydney. It was quite refreshing to see our captain win the toss even in a match of less importance. Mason and Wainwright started our innings, and both made double figures, 13 and 28 respectively. Tom Hayward then obtained a cipher, Storer, Hirst, Druce, and myself all obtained over fifty—92, 56, 54, and 60 respectively. Storer and Hirst both played vigorous cricket, and went in a good deal for hitting, although they played sound cricket, inasmuch as both of them placed their high hits cleverly from the fieldsmen in most cases. Druce played a very attractive innings. The University men, however, let off Storer, Hirst, and Druce rather easily. At the end of the day's play the total reached 333 for seven wickets.

On the resumption of play on Monday, the English captain declared the innings closed. Clarke and McKibbin divided the wickets between them. Clarke obtained four for 98, and McKibbin three for 81. Both bowled well on the easy pitch. Garrett, Charlton, O'Hara, and White did not meet with much success, although it must be acknowledged that they bowled finely, and were decidedly unlucky in not obtaining

a wicket. Charlton also had, to a certain extent, to contend against his luck. Clarke, the most successful bowler, is one of medium pace, possessing good length, and kept good control over the ball, and is able to break either way; and what is more, like McKibbin, he is able to field his own bowling remarkably well. The catching of the University men was not very good, one player in particular being the chief culprit.

Monday afternoon turned out wet and showery. On the University side, Poidevin, Moses, and McKibbin secured double figures. Miller, White, and Garrett did not trouble the scorers to any extent. The batsmen and bowlers were much handicapped by the constant showers that interfered with play. Moses carried out his bat for 27 when play was abandoned. His was a good display, considering the wicket. He is a batsman possessing great defence, and must, undoubtedly, possess some fine strokes which, however, he was unable to utilize on account of the sodden state of the ground. The total when the game was drawn, amounted to 76 for six wickets; Stoddart, Druce, Mason, and myself divided the six wickets between us, Mason coming out best with two wickets for 10. After a couple of days' rest, we left Sydney for Brisbane for our match against a combined team of Queensland and Victoria. The journey was long and uneventful; the country through which we passed was refresh-

ingly green and extremely pretty all along the Darling Downs. After a day's rest to take away the effects of our journey, we commenced our match on February 19, on a wet and sloppy wicket. In my own humble judgment I should imagine the game was commenced on the day, in all probability,—unless the umpires were very much mistaken or incompetent,—to suit the convenience of the public and the Brisbane cricketing executive. However, it didn't materially matter, as the match was of not much moment, although it was a first-class fixture. It was unsatisfactory to the batting side to have to play on, but it was manifestly unfair to the other side to have to bowl with a wet ball. The play lasted in all about three hours, during which time 133 runs were scored for five wickets. The last half hour's play practically took place in semi-darkness, the street lamps were seen lit all along the cricket-pitch. MacLaren won the toss from Trott; quite unique for the side to have won two tosses in sucession. MacLaren, Mason, Storer, and I got 20, 27, 32, and 33 respectively, Hayward being the only one to get out for 8. It was impossible to score fast, owing to the exceptionally wet wicket. Giller and Hewitt obtained four wickets out of five, and they were able to keep quite a decent length, notwithstanding the greasy condition of the ball.

This was the only bit of play that took place, much to the disappointment of the players and public

in Brisbane. The rest of the the three days allotted to the match were wet throughout, a more or less continual downpour resulting each day, and the players of both sides were confined to their quarters during the rest of their stay in Queensland. The Queensland Club once again extended their hospitality by putting up the English amateurs at the club buildings. His Excellency Lord Lamington entertained us again at Government House one evening. His Excellency is particularly devoted to out-door sports, and evinced the greatest keenness in our doings in the colonies.

CHAPTER XII.

THE FINAL INTERNATIONAL MATCH.

AFTER a fatiguing journey on our return to Sydney from Brisbane, we entered upon our final International Match on Feburary 26.

The Australians made one change from their victorious combinations previous to this, Iredale relinquishing his place voluntarily in favour of J. Worrall, the Victorian batsman. The team that took the field against us finally being Trott, Trumble, McLeod and Worrall (Victoria): Hill, Darling and Jones (S.A.); Gregory, Noble, Kelly and Howell (N.S.W.). In the final team Stoddart resigned his place in favour of Wainwright, who played so remarkably well against N.S.W. Our captain and Iredale showed grand self-sacrifice in the interests of their side by voluntarily standing down from the game. MacLaren skippered England for the second time in these test games; Wainwright, Hayward, Storer, Druce, Hirst, Mason, Briggs, Hearne, Richardson

and myself were the others who formed the eleven under his guidance. MacLaren succeeded for the second time in winning the toss from the lucky Australian captain, and he and Wainwright inaugurated a fine stand for the first wicket. It was the only time in which 100 had been scored by the first pair in these series. Both played with remarkable confidence and safety, and many were the changes tried by the cute captain of the opposing team to separate the pair. Both batsmen ran a neck and neck race until they were in the 30's, when MacLaren gradually forged ahead. Wainwright was first to leave, having played a beautiful innings of 49, his highest score in these games. His cutting and his driving on the off-side were again a feature of his play. It was, indeed, a pity for our side that he was not able to show his true form in the earlier games. MacLaren played another delightful innings on this occasion. His success on the Sydney ground has been truly phenomenal and, but for an unfortunate accident by which he cut a ball into his wicket, in all probability he would have again exceeded the 100. My partnership with him was very brief, a thoughtless stroke landing a ball safe in Gregory's hands at extra cover. MacLaren was soon afterwards out, but Storer and Hayward added a useful 80 to our score. Storer's was another well played innings, as was Hayward's ; both of these, however, succumbed to Jones, both batsmen playing on to their wickets.

Druce and Hirst then made another stand, and at the end of the day's play just over 300 runs for the loss of five wickets were registered. The fortunes of the game, however, underwent a vast change the next day, and fluctuated in favour of one side or the other during the second day's play.

Druce and Hirst, the two not-outs of the previous day, didn't augment their scores to any extent. Druce's 64 was a capital innings, and it contained, perhaps, the greatest variety of strokes on our side. MacLaren's 65, though highest, did not contain quite the same number of strokes that usually characterise his displays, as he chiefly obtained his runs by his "push" in the slips. This stroke, which MacLaren does with such precision and safety, looks like an effective stroke for all players to imitate; but I feel sure that, except for players of MacLaren's ability and genius, it is neither a safe nor an elegant stroke to execute on any wicket without taking a good deal of unnecessary risk. Mason, Briggs, Hearne, and Richardson contributed 10 amongst them. The innings amounted to 335. Among the bowlers Jones had the best record, having six wickets for 82. He hurled the ball at a great pace throughout the innings, and undoubtedly achieved a fine performance in securing six wickets. For the second time during the tour he bowled with exceptional pace, and he was rewarded by such signal success. Noble and Trumble

divided the other four between them, Howell and McLeod failing to obtain wickets.

The Englishmen on the first day's play were accused of playing a slow game. Let us analyse this statement, and ascertain the truth of this assertion. Only on one other occasion, I believe, during the test game, has the score exceeded in number this score on the day's play, and that was during the third Test Match in Adelaide, which is a much faster ground than the Sydney ground, and hence easier to score on for those accustomed to play on it. Again, the English batsmen were playing far superior bowling to that which confronted the players against English bowling at the South Australian Oval. Lastly, it will be readily acknowledged that with Kelly at the wicket, Trumble slip, Trott at point, Worrall at cover, Gregory at extra cover, Jones at mid-off, and Noble and Howell bowling on most occasions, there was the most deadly, dangerous, and safe combination of off side fielding that has yet appeared on the field during our tour in Australia to get the batting away from. Considering these circumstances, it was quite surprising to myself to realise that the scoring had reached over 300 the first day. Kelly kept wickets admirably, though not quite reaching the standard of excellence that he attained in the first match of the series. The fielding on the off side was brilliant, and all the players deserved every credit for their magni-

ficent efforts, the catching and ground work being at all times perfectly safe.

McLeod and Darling, as usual, commenced the Australian batting, Darling being caught at slip when he made 14, and Hill went in and contributed 8, and was well beaten by Richardson. A useful partnership then resulted. Worrall joined McLeod, but it cannot be said that his score of 26 was a confident exhibition of batting, for, though it contained two or three excellent strokes, it contained more strokes of which he knew nothing about; however, he showed fair defence. Gregory, as is usual with him, scored nicely by cuts, and an occasional stroke on the off side; 21 was his share. Noble and McLeod was another useful combination. McLeod's patient innings was then brought to a close by a full pitch from Richardson. He had exhibited great patience, and exhibited a fair variety of strokes. McLeod likes fast bowling, and is therefore able to play Richardson easily. Trott, Trumble, Kelly, and Howell, all added double figures to the Australian total, but nothing seemed to withstand Tom Richardson's fine deliveries. The great Surrey crack was, for the first time, irresistible, and through his instrumentality the Australian innings closed for 239. The English fielding and bowling alike was admirable, and their out work compared very favourably with that of their opponents. Richardson's performance, taking eight wickets for 94, was a

grand achievement, Briggs and Hearne getting one each. Storer, Mason, Hayward, and Hirst, were all unsuccessful in the trundling. Richardson's pace was faster than he had shown any time during the tour. His rest after the injury undoubtedly benefited him to a very large extent, and he came on the field fresh and fit. The fielding of Druce, Wainwright, MacLaren, and Briggs was exceptionally fine, and Storer at the wickets showed better form than he had any time during the tour.

With a lead of 96, and with every prospect of winning, the English team entered upon their second innings. A most disappointing start resulted, inasmuch as MacLaren was caught first ball in the slips. Wainwright played a fast one of Noble's on to his legs, and then on to his wicket, and I was given out l.b.w. when I had contributed 12. I refrain from passing any comments for fear that my judgment may be prejudiced in this case, as it concerns myself. However, I must add, without in any way wishing to compare myself, or setting myself the equal of either Darling or Clem Hill, that I was curious to know how the crowd, which by the way, showed its sympathy with me by the extreme and unusual silence at the incident, would have acted under similar circumstances if either of the South Australians had been given out by one of the umpires in a test game. Hayward was the only man to exceed 40, and for the second time in the

match, played remarkably well, but both he and Storer, the latter contributing 31, threw away their wickets by impatiently hitting at wide balls off Trumble. Druce, Mason, and Briggs contributed double figures among the rest; Briggs' 20 was the most brilliant, his cuts and off-drives being particularly fine. The scoring in all amounted to 178. Considering the wicket and the strength of the batting, it was a poor show. Many wickets were thrown away by the batsmen at critical periods by careless and hasty strokes. Trumble and Jones, Howell and Noble secured wickets in the following order—four, three, two, one. Trumble bowled with remarkable head and coolness, and Jones also got wickets when badly wanted. Howell's two were decidedly easy captures. The Australian fielding was again beautiful, and throughout consistently safe and brilliant. With such a fine lot of magnificent fieldsmen some grand work was done, Jones and Gregory surpassing others on the side. Kelly was again very safe.

Wanting 275 to win, the Australians commenced their second inning with Darling and McLeod, the usual pair. The start didn't go well for the Colonials, McLeod being bowled by Hearne, and Clem Hill by Richardson, when he had made only a couple. Darling, however, was giving us a sample of his powers as a batsman, and he laid about to punish Richardson in a most severe and brilliant manner. With his straight driving, cutting, and driving past

cover, and an occasional lofty hit over the two covers, he heaped on runs one after another. The spectators, who had been silent and almost dumb at the commencement of the innings of the Australians, now became very enthusiastic. A hard chance when about 30 was not accepted by Briggs, who, however, made a most excellent attempt to hold the catch, but having lost his balance at the start, he was unable to recover himself in time to take advantage of the ball, which he had knocked up in the air at his first attempt. A most confident appeal by the bowler and wicket-keeper when the score had reached 45 to Darling's name was answered in the negative; and from that moment up to lunch time on the last day of this Test Match the crowd behaved disgracefully, particularly in the cheaper portions of the ground. They behaved in a discourteous and disagreeable manner to the visiting team, and the noise and the jeering commenced, and was kept up right up to the adjournment for lunch; whether it was Storer who took the ball at the wickets, or one of the fieldsmen who just succeeded in stopping it on the boundary, or an attempt at a catch was made, or the bowler was delivering the ball, a shower of vulgar wit and insulting remarks were thrown at the individuals with a frequency that made it most disagreeable for the players to stay on the field.

Daring to appeal against one of the Home

batsmen, no doubt, once again brought the visitors into popular disfavour, the spectators having attributed sharp motives for the appeal. It is a singular fact that in the accounts in the leading journals of my case of l.b.w. the names of the opposing players who are supposed to have alleged that the ball hit my legs first and then on to the bat were given, and consequently I was deemed to have been rightly adjudged to be out, immaterially whether the ball had pitched straight or not. Would it not have been fair for some of the journals to have mentioned the names of the players on the visiting side, who, with the same confidence, and with undoubtedly less doubt, as to the ball having hit Darling's legs, alleged that they considered he was out? This is one of the many instances in which one is easily able to show how circumstances are favourably represented on behalf of one side and equally unfavourable on behalf of the other. Worrall was content to play a very patient game, while Darling was hitting out like a Trojan. At one time Darling was taking too many risks, and he gave a further chance at 60 to Hayward in the country, which that fieldsman missed, having been greatly inconvenienced by the behaviour of the crowd. The scoring at the luncheon adjournment was 92 for two wickets. The score was taken to over 200 before the third wicket fell, Worrall being caught by Hirst after being easily missed by me a few overs

previously. Darling kept up his wonderful scoring right up to the end of his brilliant display ; he was brilliantly caught by Wainwright at slip. It was a great innings at a critical period, and such a one that can change a game and turn the tide in favour of one's own side. Gregory and Noble then knocked off the required number of runs without further loss.

Thus did Australia gain another victory, for the fourth time running, in these test games. Richardson obtained two wickets for 110, but had much bad luck in having two catches missed, and two confident appeals answered in the negative. Hearne and Hayward obtained the other two wickets. Hirst, Briggs and Mason failed in bringing about a separation. Storer again kept wickets remarkably well. The ground fielding was exceptionally good, but the catching was faulty ; Hayward, Briggs and myself missing three catches. Briggs' catch, however, was an exceptionally hard one, and he deserves every credit for his magnificent attempt. In summarising the match it is difficult in this instance to award the palm, except on actual result, to the home team. Without a doubt England held the upper hand up to Hill's dismissal in the second innings. It was then that the chance of an English victory gradually diminished through force of circumstances rather than through a meagre display of bad cricket, either on the part of their bowlers or their fieldsmen.

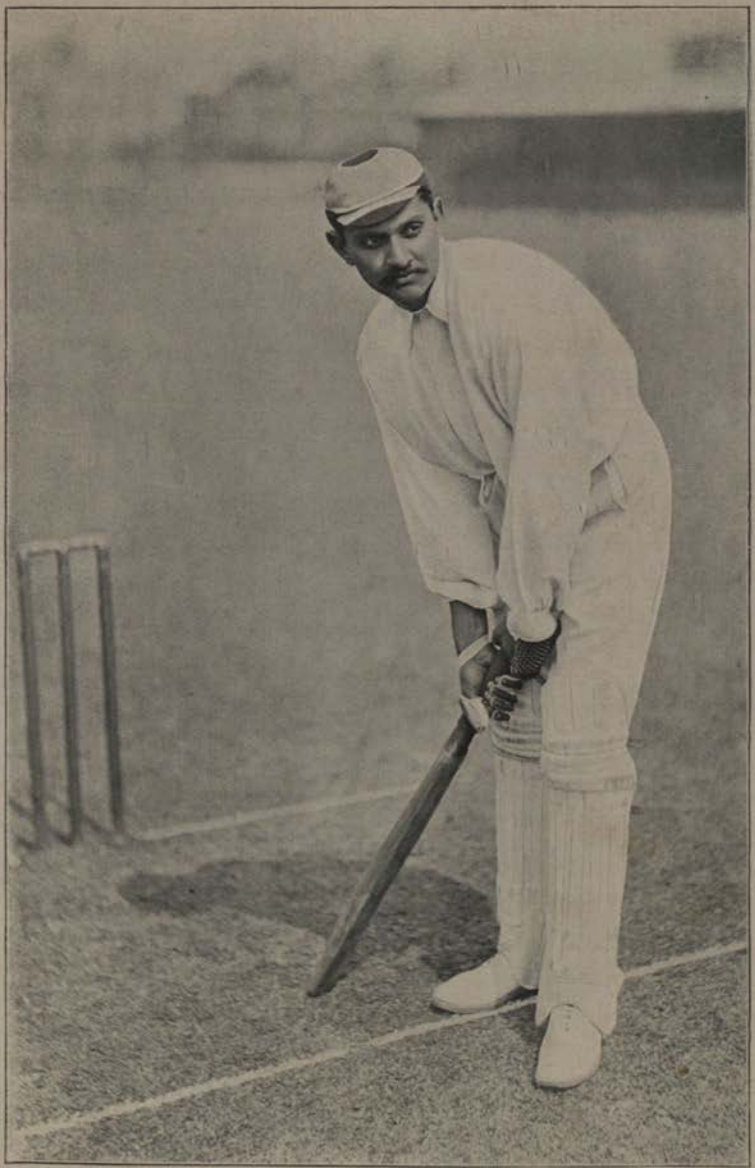

PHOTO BY] [REINHOLD THIELE.

PRINCE RANJITSINHJI AT THE WICKETS.

This match, brought out many excellent batting displays on either side. MacLaren (65), Wainwright (49), Hayward (47 and 43), Storer (44 and 31), and Druce (64), were the principal scorers on the English side. McLeod (64), Worrall (62), and Noble (31), were the three Australian batsmen who exceeded thirty, not forgetting Darling. Darling's 160 was the greatest score of the match, as it was undoubtedly the deciding one. It was one of those scores during the compilation of which three essentials are necessary—nerve, ability and good luck. Darling possesses, as a batsman, the first two; the Goddess of Cricket gave him the last attribute. Another similar coincidence of the match was the success obtained by both Richardson and Jones. The wicket on which the match was played, though not by any means the best that had been prepared on the Sydney ground,—not that there was any justification for any of the batsmen to take exception to it,—had a certain amount of fire, which slightly enabled the fast bowlers to come out successfully, provided they bowled at their best. Both Richardson and Jones bowled with remarkable effect. The fielding of both sides was exceptionally fine, the Australian combination, particularly on the off side, was as good as it was possible to meet in the field.

The result of the match though favourable to the Australians in the end, to my way of thinking, from

a purely cricket point of view, reflected equal credit on the members of the losing side for their excellent exhibition. There was a great attendance on Saturday, the first day of the match, an absolutely record crowd, over 36,000 people having assembled on the ground.

Every one was delighted with the behaviour of the crowd on Saturday, and I for one took it as a happy omen for future matches. No doubt it was expected, now that the excitement of the rubber was a topic of the past, that the people would deal with the visitors in a more liberal spirit, and take the example set by the record crowd of Saturday. But it turned out a too premature conjecture, and the game ended in a disgraceful scene on the last day of the play.

At the conclusion of the game the captain of the English team was presented with a gold watch and chain by the Melbourne Cricket Club and the Sydney Trustees, in recognition of his services to Australian cricket, and as a token of their esteem and respect for him as a cricketer and a worthy Englishman.

In reply, he thanked them for their courtesy and kindness, and he requested to be allowed to say a few words in the interest of Australian cricket, to protest against a "certain" section of the press and a "certain" section of the crowd, known as "barrackers," both of whom he discribed as being

detrimental to the best interests of the game; and he hoped that all responsible persons in any club would endeavour to put down to the best of their ability the growing nuisance which had resulted in the latest arrivals from England being frequently insulted both by that "certain" section of the press and by that "certain" section of the crowd. The usual toasts of the teams were proposed and responded to by the respective captains of both sides, and were drunk by members of both teams very cordially, thus again proving the good relations that exist between the players themselves.

Two entertainments were kindly given to the members of the English team; one was a fishing excursion on the Hawkesbury River, managed by Mr. Garrett; the second, at which I was unfortunately unable to be present, was kindly organised by Messrs. Dangar and Anderson, two well-known sportsmen and members of the Union Club in Sydney. We had a most thoroughly enjoyable day at the Hawkesbury, as the fishing and the picnic resulted in a great success, thanks to the management of Mr. Garrett. Many interesting snap-shots were taken of several members of the party. Some members of the Australian team gave us the pleasure of their company on this occasion, and one and all enjoyed our day thoroughly. The trip on the harbour was an equal success, if not a greater one; sharks were caught, and much harmless sport was

indulged in in fishing and bathing and fossicking in the harbour. The hospitality of our hosts was exceedingly appreciated and enjoyed by all the party. These excursions formed a very pleasant change after the hard and keenly contested games fought out in the warm and sultry weather of the Australian continent, and undoubtedly freshened and cheered up the members of the team.

CHAPTER XIII.

OUR LAST MATCH IN MELBOURNE.

WENDING our way homeward, we arrived at Melbourne to play our return against Victoria. Several new men were tried by the Victorians against us. Their captain, Trott, with that luck which is so signally his, won the toss from MacLaren, who was skippering the English team in the absence of Stoddart. Briggs, also, was an absentee.

During the two days previous to the commencement of the game I had to return to Sydney for undergoing another operation at the hands of Dr. Brady, my medical adviser. The game commenced on March 11 at the usual time. Worrall and McLeod batted first for the Victorians. As Hearne and Richardson didn't effect a separation, Mason and Storer were put on to bowl instead. Each of them got a wicket, thanks to the alertness of the wicket-keeper Board. Worrall and McLeod both contributed double figures, 13 and 16 respectively. Trumble and Stuckey then made a very

effective stand. Stuckey at the commencement of his innings was often in difficulties with the different bowlers, but by patient defence and good luck he managed to render substantial though slow help to his more able partner. Trumble played a very fine game throughout his innings, and only one blemish could be recorded against him. His driving past point was magnificent, and his on-side glances and hits were also very effective. Right up to the end of his career he played a fast, sound and capital game. He ultimately got out caught at extra-cover off Storer. Trumble at the present moment is by far the best all round player in Australia. Rush, the new man, shaped badly, and it was very apparent that he was anxious and extremely nervous. Just about this time Mason came on with a rush in his bowling, Stuckey, Giller, and Bruce all falling to his credit in quick succession. Giller's 17 contained some capital strokes; Laver and Trott added a few runs, when Laver was bowled by Richardson. The next day, Trott seeing that the end was near, in trying to hit out was caught off our fast bowler. Johns and Roche both made useful scores of 31 and 24. The former has chiefly to thank me for his contribution, as I missed him badly on two occasions. The Victorians' total was 328. The greatest measure of success in our bowling was achieved by Mason and Storer, each of them obtaining four wickets, Mason for 53 and Storer for 79. Richardson's two wickets

cost 104. Hearne had bad luck in not obtaining a wicket, as he beat the batsmen quite often enough to justify his meeting with a fair amount of success. Mason undoubtedly bowled the best, his deliveries at times coming off the pitch with tremendous rapidity. There can be no doubt to my mind that it would have been a wise policy to have used him more frequently and for a longer period in all our important games. Storer only took second place to the Kent amateur, and for a change leg-break bowler, was remarkably effective on the day. Richardson, on the contrary, bowled disappointingly, and at no times did he appear to be dangerous to batsmen, and did not possess much "devil" in his bowling or had the slightest control on his length. The ground fielding of the side was fairly respectable, but the catching, as in most of our matches in Melbourne, was rather faulty, I myself being the chief offender. Board's wicket-keeping was decidedly the feature of our cricket, and he kept better than his more reputed comrade has done in any match in the tour. He was always sure, and clever.

England commenced batting the second day with MacLaren and Wainwright to open our innings. The start was far from promising, Wainwright being caught at slip for 8. MacLaren after making a capital 29 was beautifully taken at the wickets off the Australian captain, who was, about this time, bowling remarkably well, and he ought to have been credited

with my own wicket had an easy chance at mid-off been accepted by Worrall. Hayward and I made then a longish stand, Hayward playing remarkably well and making some grand drives. Having flukily obtained 61, in which were several blemishes, I was out, caught by Johns. Hayward and Storer added a few more to the score, when Hayward's magnificent innings came to a close for 96. In his anxiety to make sure of the century, he tamely played a ball back to the bowler. Two magnificent drives over the palings on the cinder-track were the great stars among his many fine hits during his stay at the wickets. It was undoubtedly one of his best and finest displays. He played with more confidence than he had yet displayed in the colonies, and was most unfortunate in missing three figures.

Terrible disasters then followed for the Englishmen; Druce, Hirst, and Mason retired with ciphers to their names, and it was not until Board went to the wickets that the tide of reverses was checked. The Gloucester man hit up in an orthodox though very effective manner 36. England's score amounted to the moderate sum of 279, nearly 50 behind the Victorian score. A couple of showers interfered with the play during the latter part of our innings, which made it difficult for the bowlers to take advantage of a drying wicket, which was rendered soft owing to a downpour of rain during the previous night. Roche was the most successful of the

opposition trundlers, his five wickets costing 77, but it cannot be said that he bowled any too well. He was chiefly instrumental in getting rid of the tail end cheaply, for at the beginning of our innings he had bowled very indifferently. Trott and Giller both bowled well, and better, perhaps, than their figures indicate. McLeod also obtained one for a moderate cost. Johns at the wickets was very stylish and took the ball very neatly. It is questionable whether he has a superior in Australia when he has to take slow or medium-pace bowling. There is certainly no doubt as to his being the most stylish and finished stumper in the colonies, but perhaps he is hardly as reliable as his great rival of the mother colony, who is also better able to stand the jars and knocks from fast bowlers. The Australian fielding was good as far as ground work was concerned, but their catching, like ours, was sadly at fault. Some of the best fields, Trumble, Trott, and Worrall, missed some easy chances from the English batsmen. I have seen more catches missed by players on the Melbourne Oval than on any other ground we have played on. The huge stand and the trees that are planted all round the shilling reserve, both of which, while making the ground look picturesque, undoubtedly tend to make the light bad for getting a clear sight of the ball. It is no uncommon thing to see players run the wrong way either to stop the ball or to catch it. The trees, I have been told, have been planted by the

members of the first English team. I wonder if these cricketers ever gave a thought of the disadvantages they were creating for future teams when they planted those trees! A green background is the very worst for getting a sight of the leather. It would not be, perhaps, an unwise thing, from a cricket standpoint, if some future English team were to undo what their predecessors, at the request of the Melbourne authorities, had done. I must own my personal inability to do myself justice on this ground; six misses out of seven easy catches that have come my way is a sufficient proof of my lack of confidence in this respect.

A splendid start was made by the Victorians in their second innings, but they were helped a great deal by opportune showers, which made the wicket wet and easy, and the ball too slippery to hold. Our captain commenced the bowling with Mason and Hearne, and as they were unsuccessful Richardson was tried in their place, and at once proved successful, and at first very deadly. Worrall and McLeod, after contributing 41 and 26 respectively, were got rid of by him. Giller, Rush, Stuckey, Trumble, and Trott all fell in quick succession on a drying pitch, which, without being sticky, was certainly not very easy to play upon. The ball was coming at all paces. Bruce, who was the first to get double figures after Worrall's dismissal, retired with a split finger, which was badly damaged by a

fast rising ball. Laver's 19 was a useful addition to the total under the circumstances. Johns and Roche didn't repeat their first innings' success, Mason proving too much for them. The total amounted to 132. Richardson, with five for 35, played the most important part in the dismissal of our opponents. Mason again got two for 12, and Hayward one. Hearne bowled rather disappointingly on the pitch. Board again kept wickets magnificently.

Wanting 183 to win, and as the wicket was drying and playing just a trifle difficult, the captain changed the order by substituting Board for himself with Wainwright. Both men played a capital game, and forced the runs at a very brisk pace. Board, after running into double figures, was cleverly caught at short slip by Laver. Wainwright and MacLaren both continued forcing tactics, and played remarkably well. Wainwright's 36 was a very fine effort, and he had again very bad luck in being got out by a most wonderfully well-judged catch, taken with the left hand high up in the country, by Laver. Hayward and I, after MacLaren's dismissal, knocked off the remaining runs without being separated. Three magnificent hits in succession were the chief feature in MacLaren's short but brilliant essay, one of them, a hook, landed the ball on the seats over the track. Hayward again played remarkably well, and while he and I were in the pitch was greatly improv-

ing, although at no time during the match could it be described as difficult or sticky. The Victorians' bowling was rather in and out in its excellence, but didn't reach that high standard of proficiency which they had shown us in our first encounter against them. Their fielding in our second innings was excellent, Laver being the most conspicuous, as he brought off two wonderfully fine catches. Trumble obtained two for 44 and Trott one for 52, these three being the only wickets that fell, England thus gaining their second victory over Victoria, and their first in a match of importance, that is in a first-class fixture, since the First Test at Sydney. It must be considered an excellent victory considering what a splendid side Victoria had put in the field. Just to demonstrate the strength of Victoria, particularly in their batting, one need only point out that the Selection Committee were able to dispense with the services of such brilliant players as H. Graham and G. L. Wilson, both of whom are so well known as having done remarkable achievements in England.

As it was the last time we were to be in Melbourne, our hosts, the Melbourne Cricket Club, during the progress of the match gave a farewell banquet to the team. The gathering was a success in every way, the chief notabilities of the city being present on the occasion. His Excellency the Governor, Lord Brassey, who is a Patron of the Melbourne Cricket Club, honoured us by his presence.

Several interesting ceremonies and speeches were made after dinner was over. Mr. Frank Grey Smith, the President of the M.C.C., presented the amateur members of the team who visited Australia for the first time, namely, Mason, Druce and myself, with a honorary life membership badge of the club. The captain, A. E. Stoddart, also had his badge renewed for the one he was relieved of on our first arrival at Brisbane. The professional members of the team were presented with a bonus for their services during the present tour, and a futher presentation was made to Richardson of the ball with which he had captured eight wickets for 94 in the final Test Match.

After the toast of "Her Majesty the Queen," the Governor, in responding to the toast of his health, made an eloquent speech, and directed the attention of his hearers to the fact that these international games tend to engage the attention of both England and Australia towards each other, and hence a closer relationship of good feeling and brotherhood results. He congratulated the Australians on possessing a magnificent side, and called them worthy "chips of the old block."

Mr. Frank Grey Smith then proposed the health of the English team, and said that the promoters of the M.C.C., in particular, were heartily satisfied with the team as a whole as cricketers and men, and he had nothing but respect and admiration for them.

He referred to the many services of Stoddart to Australian cricket, and in conclusion he hoped that the team would take away nothing but good-will and happy recollections of their tour from Australian shores to the Old Country.

Stoddart, in reply, thanked the M.C.C. and President for the compliment they had paid the team, and he assured them that his team, although they had been unfortunate enough to lose the rubber by meeting a better side than their own, had enjoyed the tour socially and otherwise to an admirable extent, thanks to the hospitality of our hosts and to the kindnesses of the many friends we have in Australia. He then referred to the criticism of his Sydney speech in a leading journal of Melbourne. He remarked that it was an unfair criticism and a misrepresentation of actual facts, and the insinuation it contained as to his making the speech at Sydney in the bitterness of defeat was "as mean and contemptible as it was untrue." He assured them that the remarks he had made as regards the "barracking" by a "certain" section of the crowd, and the insults offered to members of the team by a "certain" section of the press were purely in the interest of Australian cricket, and he assured them, also, that the hooting "barracker" and that "certain" section of the press were no good to man or beast. "Certain" section, he maintained, did not mean the crowd as a whole, which had been, as a rule, very fair. From the

applause that greeted his remarks bearing on those points, it would be just to infer that those present fully endorsed our captain's strong and manly remarks, expressing his honest convictions. In conclusion, he thanked the M.C.C., and the managers of the tour, Messrs. Sheridan and Wardill, for the thoroughness of their attention to all members of our team.

Now for a slight digression from the proceedings of the banquet. One of the chief points in the article referred to by our captain was a statement to the following effect. That the wholesale condemnation by Stoddart of the behaviour of the crowd, as a whole, to the present team, would lead English people to believe that the recent combination of visiting players had been unfairly treated by the Australian public. Stoddart, in his speech at Sydney, stated clearly that a certain section of the crowd had been discourteous on each ground the team had played on, and he further emphasized this at Melbourne. He went on to say that the crowd, as a whole, had been fair to himself and his team. If, therefore, such an erroneous impression got abroad in the Old Country, I know he wished it to be clearly understood by the public generally in this country that it will not be by any utterance of his own, but by misrepresentations of his own speeches and wildly prejudiced ideas published in various important journals,

Messrs. MacLaren, Druce, Mason, and I were each in turn called upon to say a few words. Each one of us endorsed the views expressed by our skipper, and sincerely thanked the company for the kindness we had received at Australian hands during the tour, and for the pleasure we had derived from the tour. The new arrivals thanked the M.C.C. for the honour done them by making them life members of their club, an honour which was described as the blue-ribbon of Australian cricket. Mr. MacLaren, in his graceful speech, passed many laudatory remarks on Australian cricket and players generally.

There is another happy and interesting event that has to be chronicled after the match, and on the last day of our stay in Melbourne. That is, the wedding of Archibald Campbell MacLaren, the bulwark of batting on our side. The wedding took place at Christchurch, Toorak, and all his comrades were present at the happy event. The bride was the daughter of Mr. Robert Power, a most amiable, esteemed, and popular figure in Melbourne society, and a fine sportsman. After the conclusion of the ceremony in church, the team was invited by Mr. Power to his house to partake of the wedding breakfast, and to wish our beloved comrade and his bride prosperous and life-long happiness. A picturesque photograph was taken of the wedding group, with all the members of the team included.

A MATCH ON THE ADELAIDE GROUND

There were many wedding presents, and it is needless to say the professional and amateur members of the team, one and all, had a share in showing their respect, affection, and esteem for "Archie." Amongst the presents was a gift from the M.C.C. of a cheque, with the request that Mr MacLaren would get himself a present in the Old Country. Considering our great batsman's comparative failures on the Melbourne ground, it was, indeed, a high compliment and a genuine expression of good feeling. I know that MacLaren had always a great regard for the M.C.C. of Australia, and this token of remembrance by them on his nuptial day will further endear the club and everything connected with it to him,

CHAPTER XIV.

OUR FINAL MATCH AT ADELAIDE.

STILL continuing our homeward journey, we arrived at Adelaide after bidding MacLaren "good-bye," and wishing him a pleasant honeymoon. After a day's rest to shake off the fatigue of the train journey, we started the final match on March 19, half-an-hour before the usual time, 12 o'clock, this change being deemed necessary on account of the light getting indifferent after five in the afternoon. With a nervous step Stoddart went to spin the coin, but he returned with a pleasant and confident gait which betoken a successful result, and the conjecture was right. In the absence of MacLaren, Mason and Wainwright were deputed to be the first pair, Jones and Evans bowling against them.

As had been the case throughout our tour in most instances, the beginning was a most unhappy one, Wainwright cutting one of Jones' fast balls on to his wicket. Mason then followed suit, Jones again being the disturbing element. Hayward, after making a

four, was also bowled by the Adelaide "express," three of the best wickets thus falling for 27. Neither of the batsmen had made double figures. Storer and I by patient cricket, mixed with an occasional four, added 64, but after luncheon, Storer was dismissed for a capital 32, he having failed to time a wide ball from Jones. Druce, Hirst, and I followed in quick succession, seven wickets falling for 124, Jones having secured six victims. It was not until Stoddart and Board came together that a fairly respectable stand was made, both batsmen playing very well. Board hit out most vigorously, and Stoddart occasionally delighted the public with some of his old brilliant strokes. Board's straight driving and pulls were very effective, and Stoddart's cutting and hits over extra cover's head were most beautifully timed. Just before the four o'clock interval, Stoddart, in trying to make a big drive off Hugo, was caught in the slips. Board immediately afterwards was clean bowled by Jones, playing one of his best deliveries with a horizontal bat. Hearne and Richardson did not stay long together, and 222 was the amount the English batsmen realised between them.

Considering the wicket and the bowling, it was a tame and sorry exhibition of batting; with the exception of Stoddart, Board, and Storer, none of the batsmen did themselves justice. Jones again had the lion's share of the wickets, and his analysis of

seven for 80 was a fine achievement. The wicket, curiously enough, throughout our innings—and, as a matter of fact, all day—played a trifle slowly, it evidently being watered a little too much. Jones made the most of his opportunity by bowling at his best. There was much method in his bowling, and he deserves every credit for it. For a fast bowler, he was uncommonly clever in changing the pace of his deliveries, all the time keeping a very admirable length. On the whole, he bowled very slowly for him ; but, as it proved, with excellent result. By sacrificing pace he was able to make the ball break, quite the width of the stumps occasionally, and he was able also to keep a perfect control over the ball, thus giving very few runs away by bowling short balls, which generally is the case when extra pace is attempted by a bowler. I question if he has ever bowled with better head, or with more astonishing success. For a time one might almost say there was no stopping him.

The other bowlers suffered much by comparison. Evans, who helped to keep up the other end, bowled with precision, but hardly with any "fire." Consequently, the batsmen were able to play him without losing their wickets. Still, he was instrumental in keeping down the runs, and he made the batsmen play him all the time. Hugo was the other bowler who succeeded in obtaining wickets. He is a fresh introduction to the team, and bids fair to become a

bowler above the average. He bowls a trifle faster than Mr. C. L. Townsend in England, but has the same leg break style. He, however, does not attempt to vary his bowling very much, an occasional straight fast ball being the only variation. He obtained two wickets for 31. Reedman and Lyons—who, by the way, were not much utilised, nor was there any necessity for their being on for a long period—did not succeed in capturing a wicket. The fielding of the South Australians was capital, and McKenzie's wicket-keeping was also of a stylish nature. The team, as a whole, showed to much greater advantage in the field than in our first match. They were distinctly better by almost 50 per cent. The men on the present occasion were admirably placed in their respective positions by their skipper, and hence did not make the blunders that they committed in our first encounter. Two difficult catches in the country were missed by Green and Hill, but both of them were excellent attempts. The ground fielding of all the men was admirable.

South Australia opened with Darling and Lyons against Richardson and Hearne. Richardson's first over was productive of many runs, and it was plainly apparent that he was bowling in nothing like first-class form. Hearne, on the other hand, kept the batsmen fairly quiet. Both batsmen adopted forcing tactics, and Darling's strokes were very clean and hard. Lyons made many miss-hits, although they

were mostly along the ground. They left off with about 50 runs, without losing a wicket on the first day's play. On resuming on Monday, both Darling and Lyons again began to hit out most effectively. The scoring was fast and furious, and both batsmen made the most of Richardson's erratic deliveries. Hearne, although at time keeping them steady, came in also for fair punishment. The score was taken to over 160 before the first wicket fell; Darling, who had been missed a few runs earlier, was bowled by Mason. He had played another delightful free and forcing innings. He seemed to revel in the English bowling, and Richardson has certainly no terrors for him, nor does Hearne trouble him much on these beautiful hard Australian wickets. I always fancy he plays a good deal better when he adopts forcing methods, for, possessing plenty of hits and a fair variety of strokes, he seems to a certain extent to be able to demoralise the bowlers, and once he succeeds in that, he is, indeed, a terror. Hill, after scoring 8, in attempting to force a straight ball to leg, was given out l.b.w. It was quite a relief for the fielding side to see the back of another of these great left-handers! Reedman also departed quickly, and Lyons, after adding a few more after Darling's dismissal, was splendidly caught at the wickets. His innings was rather streaky, a mixture of fine strokes and lucky snicks at the start. During the latter part of his innings, however, he showed something like

his real ability. Several fine drives—straight ones, and on the off—were very hard, and travelled magnificently to the boundary. His success was very popular. Lyons shows to great advantage on English wickets, which are a good deal slower than Australian ones, and hence he is able to time the ball better, and show that variety of hard hits of which he has been a noted master. It is always worth while to take a man of his stamp with an Australian team, to change the fortunes of the game by his more daring methods. I feel convinced that he will be almost as successful as before on English grounds. Jarvis was a long time for his 17. He seemed quite unable to time his slash stroke on the off side, and ultimately, in attempting it, got caught at the wicket by Storer, who had just then taken the wickets instead of Board. The latter was badly knocked on the finger. Giffen and Green then added over 50 during their partnership. Both played slowly, but showed a sound defensive game. Giffen two or three times made miss-hits, but, luckily, out of the fieldsmen's reach. Richardson had the good luck to dismiss them both. Evans, McKenzie, Jones, and Hugo did not add much. Jones, while at the wickets, hit up a merry 17. The S.A. total was 287, or 65 in advance of ours.

Considering their beautiful start, it was disappointing on the whole, but, nevertheless, their first two batsmen—and Darling in particular—played beautiful

cricket, while Giffen and Green showed stubborn defence. The latter's 31 was a great improvement on the form he showed against us in the early part of the tour.

Among our bowlers, Mason was by a long way the most successful, and he bowled exceedingly well. He obtained five for 41. During the last two matches, in particular, he has come on astonishingly in bowling. I always had a great opinion of his bowling, but I must acknowledge I never suspected such ability. In this innings, in particular, he changed his pace and pitch admirably, so that not only did he beat the batsmen, but in some instances the wicket-keeper as well. Two hard chances at the wicket were missed off him, so it will be readily understood that he had decidedly bad luck in not getting more wickets, and at a smaller cost than his figures indicate. Not once during the innings did he send down a loose ball. His length was accurate, and his judgment invariably sound. Next to him, the most successful bowler was Hearne, who obtained three for 80. He did not possess the amount of "devil" in his bowling that usually accompanies his deliveries, but, nevertheless, he always has a reliable length, and this enabled him to untiringly keep his end going. Richardson obtained the other two, but it was by good luck rather than by good judgment. I question if he has bowled so badly throughout the tour as

he did on this occasion. Never once did he have the slightest control over the ball, and his length was exceedingly erratic. From the moment he grasped the ball to the time of his delivery he appeared most awkward, and almost looked as if he was unaccustomed to bowling. The secret of his failure was the fact that he was unable to get his stride and "run" just previous to delivery, and try as he might, both while bowling and in practice, he was unable to regain it. He was genuinely upset at his misfortune, but the opposing batsmen had quite a fine time of it, inasmuch as he served up all the time long-hops, full pitches, and half-volleys. Hayward and Storer, the other bowlers, were both unsuccessfully tried. The captain was too modest to put himself on.

The ground fielding was tolerably safe, but three catches were missed, and they were by Hayward, Hirst, and myself. Happily for the side, the blunders did not cost many runs; each one of the batsmen lost his wicket immediately afterwards, and the offenders each heaved a happy sigh as the escapees were dismissed. Board at first, and Storer afterwards, kept wickets admirably, and the former was keeping in exceptionally fine form when the mishap occurred to his finger. The wicket during the day played twice as fast as on Saturday; the dampness had entirely disappeared from the turf, and the bowlers were unable to do much.

With a balance of 65 against us, Mason and Wainwright again faced Jones and Evans. The game was adjourned for the day, after the pair had scored 31, without being separated.

On the third day, with the wicket and weather in favour of run getting, Mason and Wainwright continued their innings. It was at once noticeable that Jones was bowling slower than in the first innings, and required a man in the long field. The heavy work he had performed during the season had evidently told on him. The batting at once assumed the upper hand; Wainwright, in particular, played very well, and kept the lead. It was not until he had passed his hundred that he gave his first chance, which was accepted. This was the first hundred made by a professional member of our side. This is a singular and striking fact in itself, and goes far to show that the batting of the professionals did not reach that standard which was expected of it when the team left England.

Wainwright's effort was worthy of the result, as he played in quite his best style, giving a glimpse of the form that had earned him his place in the team. With Wainwright's departure, I joined Mason, and found the wicket playing much truer than in the first innings, when an occasional ball seemed to hang. At this stage of the game the bowling came off the pitch with the evenness of rise and a regularity of pace that made it much easier to negotiate. Not-

withstanding the fact that Jones was keeping an admirable length, as also was Lyons, Mason was batting with great care, and looked certain to reach his hundred, when—with his score at 84—he played a ball back to Jones, and was out. It was a relief to find Mason had once again exhibited his true form; and in conjunction with his five wickets for 41 runs, it was a brilliant wind-up to his Australian tour. His driving was, perhaps, the chief feature of his innings, although a good many of his runs were made by forcing the ball on the on side. His performance during the match was undoubtedly the best piece of all-round play done by any player of our side during the tour. I was the next to go, playing on to Hugo after making 36; and Hayward, after putting 40 together in good style, was exceptionally well caught at the wicket by McKenzie, who was standing close up to Jones' deliveries.

At the close of that day's play Druce and Hirst made matters lively, and were together at the drawing of stumps with 27 and 29 respectively, and the total was 350 runs for five wickets. On that day during the tea adjournment, Sir E. T. Smith, on behalf of the South Australian Cricket Association, made a presentation to Clement Hill on the attainment of that player's majority, which took place on March 18. A public subscription had been started to celebrate the event of Hill's coming of age, and to commemorate his extraordinary and splendid

achievements on the cricket field, which, among other feats, included that of being the first batsman in Australia to reach the aggregate of 1,000 runs in a season's first-class cricket.

The presentation took the form of a silver shield with his performances engraved thereon, and a costly gold chronometer watch and chain. The same evening both teams were entertained by Sir Edwin Smith at a farewell dinner. Sir Edwin, in a very kind and eulogistic speech, referred to our team, and expressed a wish that at no distant date another English team would visit Australia. Mr. Stoddart, in responding, after thanking our host, briefly referred again to the subject of the "barracking" element on the leading cricket grounds in Australia, and that unfair section of the press, and expressed a hope that strenuous efforts would be made to put a stop to these evils. It was refreshing to find that these remarks were approved of by the South Australian players present, including Mr. George Giffen. The pleasing duty of proposing the health of the South Australian team fell to me, and it was a genuine pleasure to compliment them upon having three of the best players in Australia in their ranks, viz., Messrs. Hill, Darling, and Jones.

On the fourth and final day of the match our remaining batsmen failed to materially add to the previous day's total of 350 runs, and in about an hour our remaining five wickets had fallen for an

addition of 49 runs. Druce and Hirst at one time appeared as if they were going to make a stand, but Jones settled any hopes we had in that direction by rapidly dismissing both batsmen. Board again sacrificed his wicket by hitting across at Jones. The innings closed for 399 runs. Jones, although at times freely punished, again came out with the majority of the wickets, taking seven for 157. One must admire his splendid determination in keeping up an end under somewhat discouraging circumstances.

It was a fitting wind-up to his brilliant season's work. No doubt his trip to England has taught him a good deal. He now varies his pace, and uses his head more than other fast bowlers, and is consequently more difficult to play than formerly. Evans and Hugo were useful, but neither was really difficult to play, though the latter should considerably improve. The fielding, on the whole, was very good. I omitted to mention the brilliant one-handed catch that Walter Giffen made at cover point, when he disposed of Stoddart.

Requiring 335 runs to win, Lyons and Darling opened the S.A. innings to the bowling of Richardson and Hearne. As in the first innings, Richardson was unable to bowl a length, and, as a result, was freely scored from. In fact, it was only giving runs to the batsmen keeping him on. Lyons hit remarkably well for 27 runs, when his wicket was upset by

a good delivery of Hearne's. With Hill in, runs came with even regularity from each batsman, but when Darling had made 27, I made a serious blunder at point by badly missing him off about the only good length ball Richardson sent down. The mistake proved a costly one to our side, as Darling, profiting by the let off, played in his best style. When his score stood at 49, Hill gave a difficult one-handed catch to Mason at slip, off Hirst, but it was very wide of the fieldsman, and could scarcely be called a chance.

With the exception of a few miss-hits, which are attributable more to his own recklessness than to any merit of the bowling, Hill made his runs in the usual masterly manner that invariably characterises his play. At first, Darling scored with more dash and brilliance than Hill, but there was little to choose between them; though, in my opinion, Darling is the more dangerous batsman. Hill has a tendency to sacrifice his wicket by resorting early in his innings to on play; this, though at times very prolific in runs, more often has a tendency to prove fatal to his innings. When he required only four runs to reach his hundred, Darling had the misfortune to lose his wicket. He had played in his best form, with the exception of the one chance to which I have referred.

After Darling's departure, Hill and Reedman played out time, and when stumps were drawn, the

Home team only required 68 runs to win, with eight wickets to fall, the drawn game thus ending largely in their favour.

Hill's innings of 124 not out was a really fine exhibition of batting. When he had taken his score past 86, tremendous cheering from the spectators somewhat surprised us; but we afterwards learned that he had then the highest aggregate and the highest average of the season.

I cannot help thinking that just a little too much prominence is attached to the result of figures in Australia, and it is sometimes the cause of the interest of the side being made subservient to the interests of the player. Some of us on the English side have, from time to time, been congratulated on personal successes without one word of regret being expressed at the failure of the team as a body. A few years ago in England much of the individual interest was exhibited by certain players, who played more for their own average than for the interest of their side, on purpose to win a trophy given by a certain newspaper each month to the player having the best average. Fortunately for the game, this has been discontinued.

The next day we left Adelaide en route to the *Ormuz*. At Largs Bay a large crowd assembled to see us off, and amongst those who boarded the *Ormuz* to say good-bye were nearly all the members of the South Australian team and Mr. Cresswell,

their secretary. Through illness, Mr. Sheridan was unable to leave Sydney, but we were glad to receive a telegram from him conveying his hearty greetings, and wishing us "bon voyage." The last man to leave the ship was our genial friend and manager, B. J. Wardill, for whom we have all formed a deep attachment.

CHAPTER XV.

SUMMING UP THE TOUR.

THE result of the tour will be voted by nearly every one in both countries, as a failure, or, at least, a comparative failure. It will be interesting to review the causes which have been instrumental in producing this result.

Our inability to win the major portion in the Test games will always cause people to estimate our performance very lightly, as we have failed twice in our mission. To a certain extent this view is rational enough. The comparative failure of the English team of 1897-8, in their matches, as a whole, and in the Internationals in particular, is to be attributed to meeting opponents who were better than themselves, and better than people in England have any idea of. Their strength on their own wickets is not at all realized in England. That, undoubtedly, has been the chief factor that has prevented this combination from taking back with them the laurels and glory of cricket.

People in the Old Country, undoubtedly, underrate the prowess of Australian cricketers in their own country. The impressions they have formed are, in most cases, based on the performances of the Australian players who have visited England. But the conditions of cricket in every way are so totally different in the two countries, that it is impossible for anybody to realise correctly the ability of the Australian players on their own grounds. The testimony of my own captain, who has had an experience of four visits to this country, ranging over a period of ten years, is that the present combination of Australian cricketers that has opposed the English team in the international games, is the finest that he has seen in Australia in every department of the game, and that the improvement in their cricket has been of an astonishingly brilliant, sound, and abundant nature. From what I have seen myself, I am fully convinced that the present combination of Australian cricketers is undoubtedly, taking all departments of the game, and particularly bowling, better than any other, from the time I first saw their players in 1888.

I cannot help remarking that, although the representatives of England have at times more brilliant and more finished exponents among their batsmen, still, no English combination has come up to the excellence and variety of the present combination of Australian bowlers in the last four Test games It

is not the superlative merit of one bowler, but the excellence and judgment of nearly half a dozen, who are different in style, in method, and in pace, that has made them so deadly and unconquerable. I have certainly seen at times more brilliant fielding in Australian combinations, but never such a consistently safe and uniform standard of excellence, nor have Australian fieldsmen ever done better catching. In most instances, when English batsmen have given chances, they have been held, and the public in Australia have certainly every reason to be satisfied with their representatives, who have played brilliantly throughout the season.

It is difficult to analyse and compare the form of the different colonies, and the result of the different "Inter-Colonials" will in itself perplex the cricket statistician. But I would award the palm for all-round merit to New South Wales, the colony which last year occupied the bottom place in their annual competition for cricket supremacy. New South Wales is, undoubtedly, a very fine side. Their batting is as good as, if not better, than any English county, and their bowling is decidedly superior to that of any one English county. Their fielding, also, is of exceptional merit, and they have in Kelly a wicket-keeper who is the best, if not the most finished, in Australia. Turning to Victoria, I think that colony, although holding the premier place, is about the second best. It has neither as good a

batting side as the mother colony, nor has it any number of good bowlers as have its less fortunate neighbours. In Trumble and Roche, Trott and McLeod, they have, undoubtedly, a fine quartette. N.S.W. has in Howell, Noble, McKibbin, and Pye, another formidable set of bowlers; but I think Noble and Howell are more dangerous, though, perhaps less reliable, than Trumble and Roche. Victoria has, undoubtedly, an advantage in two things. The presence of Hugh Trumble gives them the best all-round player in the colonies, and in the person of Harry Trott they have, probably, the best captain Australia ever had, and one without a superior to-day anywhere. Personally, I fully believe that the wonderful success of Victoria during the present season is, in a great measure, if not altogether, due to his wonderful tactics as a general. To those who, like myself, have played against him in a series of great matches, this assertion will not be considered as an exaggeration. Two such fine judges of the game on our side as our captain and MacLaren are at one with me on this point.

I give the South Australian team third place, well knowing that it has asserted its supremacy over what I consider to be the strongest team in Australia. The great point to be looked at in a team, in my opinion, is not the excellence of one, two, or four individuals, but the merits of eleven of its members. South Australia has always had in its ranks,

since the establishment of the colonial matches members who have completely outshone their weaker brethren, and it has been fortunate enough to possess the greatest all-round player of Australia in George Giffen.

At the present day, without in any way wishing to depreciate several of the fine players for South Australia, one cannot help acknowledging that the team owes its success mainly to the efforts of four individuals : Darling, Hill, Lyons, and Jones. The first three are batsmen of exceptional power and ability. Lyons, perhaps, is not so reliable as of old, but of the other two, it is safe to say that they are without any superiors in Australia, and the fact that they are left-handers makes them more effective than other Australian batsmen. In Jones, again, they possess a great bowler, and the best field in Australia. As a bowler, he must, indeed, take rank as one of the world's greatest fast bowlers at the present time. His command is, of late, greatly improved, and his judgment and knowledge of the game, with the experience of an English season, has greatly increased, with the result that he meets with much more success than formerly. Small wonder it is, then, that the present English cricketers have had to take the second place at cricket ; but second only to the finest side, it appears from abundant testimony, that Australia has ever had : and surely this is no disgrace.

Though the reason first stated has been chiefly the

cause of the English team having to play—to put it colloquially—"second fiddle" in cricket, there are three other potent reasons which have tended, to a certain extent, to handicap them from showing their best form. It will be readily acknowledged that all visiting teams are, to a certain extent, handicapped by the strange surroundings amid which they play, and the conditions, so totally different from those of England, under which cricket is played in this country. A wide field is opened out on this subject in the shape of a comparison between English and Australian cricket, and the differing conditions under which the game is played. First of all, then, I must mention what A. G. Steel affirms, I believe, in the "Badminton Library" book on Cricket, the disturbing elements for English cricketers in Australia, namely: the light on the principal grounds of Australia—Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide—and the fast pace of their wickets compared to the English ones. The light is so disturbing, and the glare so strong, that English players, who are not used to them, both in batting and fielding, misjudge the ball to a very great extent. Those who have seen a clear English summer day, will have noticed the soft light compared with the glow resulting from the Australian sun. In catching, particularly, this effects the player considerably, and, from my own experience here, instead of the majority of the English players improving in their catching, the change has been for the worse.

English players nearly all complain of the terrible glare on Australian grounds, particularly Melbourne and Adelaide. Coming now to the wickets, the slowest of the Australian wickets—which, by the way, is that at Sydney– is by a long way faster than the fastest in England, with the result, that at the start, in particular, the English batsmen seemed to play with an uncomfortable and "fish out of water" feeling. Take for instance the performances of the present team. Their best scores, with one exception, have been made on the Sydney ground, the ground on which the light is not so trying, nor the pace so fast, as in Melbourne or Adelaide.

The pace of the Adelaide wicket when it has been prepared is, indeed, a revelation to a stranger, and I will not forget our first match against South Australia. The extraordinary way in which the ball beat the batsmen in pace, right up to the finish of their innings, whether they were set or not, was simply amazing. In England the wickets, as everyone knows who has either played on, or heard of them, are much slower than the pitches in this country. This applies to what are called the "good" wickets—the hard wickets—in England ; but there is another point where the comparison comes in. In England, there is a tremendous variety of wickets, whereas in Australia, in nine cases out of ten, the match is played out on a good fast wicket. In England there is a good proportion, during one month or another,

of either slow or sticky wickets. This variation causes a levelling and a settling of accounts between batsmen and bowlers, and supplies a great charm by creating fluctuations in the game. It makes batsmen resourceful and daring. In a wet year, however, the good wickets are few and far between, and the slow or sticky ones are the rule rather than the exception. The year becomes a bowler's paradise, and only the gifted among the batsmen achieve anything like a fair measure of success. This variation of wickets, as cricket has advanced, has developed as occasion has demanded—and thanks also to the genius of W. G. Grace—a variety of strokes, that have become so enchanting to the spectators to witness, so pleasant to the batsmen to execute.

Let us see what the English player has to put up with when he comes to Australia. He finds a wicket much faster than he has been used to, and he finds, also, that the wickets remain invariably the same—hard and fast. He finds the ball coming to him at a considerably quicker pace than he has been used to, with the result that his timing is at fault, and the resources which, if he is anything like an able batsman, he possesses, and uses to such signal advantage in England, do not enable him to make a variety of strokes. His customary strokes he cannot employ, or if he does, he will find that, instead of being advantageous to him, they have proved a danger on account of his faulty

timing. But he is so habituated to make the strokes, that unless he is a batsman gifted with much patience, and able to school himself against temptation, he will be hardly able to resist the subtle arts of Australian bowlers. In the present combination, nearly all the batsmen have been what are described by home critics as brilliant and resourceful; but the tactics which have been successful on English wickets, have, unfortunately, been detrimental to the best interests of their side, and I feel sure that slow players, and players with a less variety of strokes, will achieve a greater measure of success in this country than more brilliant players, unless the latter are gifted with the rare faculty of quickly adapting themselves to circumstances.

What has been a disadvantage to the English batsmen, has been still more so to the English bowlers. Very rarely does a good, true English wicket last two days. It will be generally found that on the last day the wicket has crumbled, and the bowler gets his turn on either the last or the two last innings. Then, again, the English climate is so variable, that rain often comes to the bowler's help, and makes the wicket sticky, slow, and caked, much to his delight. The result is, that the English bowler does not, in the majority of instances, trouble himself to do anything more than keep an accurate pitch, and to be able to bowl without

tiring for a considerable period during the day. He also attempts, and often succeeds, in trying to break either one way or the other, and knowing that the wicket will, at one time or another, and even at the start, if helped by rain, assist him, he does not trouble to learn the subtle arts which all Australian bowlers seem to possess and think it necessary to learn, on account of having to bowl on true, hard wickets. In other words, the English bowler, except in a few instances, does not use his head. This comprises change of pace, change of delivery or action, to break either way, to avoid a batsman's pet strokes, or to lure him to destruction through his weak ones. English bowlers, therefore, who come out to Australia, unless they are naturally gifted bowlers, find that, owing to the glossy surface of the pitches, and the pace with which the balls rebound, they are at sea. The wicket lasts considerably longer than is necessary for the completion of the match in most instances, and they find that the patience of the Australian batsman is untiring, and that their length, upon which they mainly depend, is not, in itself, sufficient to get wickets ; so that the fire of their bowling gradually wears out, and they gradually weaken their attack. Then they bowl like machines, and are at the mercy of the batsmen.

From these remarks it will naturally follow that the English players, both batsmen and bowlers,

stand a better chance against Australian combinations on slow, sticky pitches, or those which give the bowlers assistance, provided that the conditions remain equal for both sides. Throughout this tour there has been only one wicket that has been affected by rain to any extent in a match that has been completed. The victory gained by England over Victoria in the return was, in a great measure, due to the inability of the Victorian players to time the ball on a wicket thad had been slightly affected by rain. The English players, on the contrary—although it must be acknowledged that the wicket improved during the latter part of their second innings—being more accustomed to play on sticky wickets, were not seriously inconvenienced by the state of the pitch.

I must acknowledge that I should have liked to see, for the sake of variety and for the sake of seeing games played out under all conditions, two games of the Test series played from first to last on wickets affected by rain. There is always more excitement and fun, and more skill displayed on ruck wickets than on perfect wickets. It is a most perfect sight to see such players as Jackson, Shrewsbury, or Patterson playing two good bowlers on a sticky wicket. The genius and resource and the variety of strokes, the judgment in placing, are all so enchanting to the real cricket enthusiast. The perfect wickets, which are so common nowadays, to my

mind level batsmen to a certain degree, at the same time giving giving them an undue advantage over bowlers. This latter particularly applies to this country. The patient batsman with a few strokes is practically as effective as a batsman with a great variety of strokes, which, by the way, he is in most cases unable to utilise on account of the exceptional pace of the turf, and occasionally forgetting himself, he risks it, and meets with failure.

Another disadvantage may be noted which, happily, has not on this tour handicapped our players so much as it has done players of other teams ; yet, in a case or two, it made some individuals less effective. This is the exceptional heat of an Australian summer. It was, indeed, a matter of congratulation that during most of our matches in Melbourne, the majority of the players bore the heat well, although one or two had to retire for a short period from the game. This must be put down as one of the strange conditions under which the game is played here.

While I am on the subject of strange conditions, I might incidentally touch on one point that has been prominent, and that I may, without exaggerating the magnitude of its effect on the play of the team, say differs largely from the custom of English cricket grounds. That is the "barracking" —as it is termed— of the crowd, and the delight of a certain section of the press in running down

cricketers individually. The present English team had unfortunately to put up with this during the tour, and, naturally enough, the annoyance had a certain effect on their play at times. I am fully aware that this treatment is not because they are visitors and strangers. Both of the nuisances have become almost habits in this country; so much so that Australian players experience it themselves, and in all probability come in for a larger share when there is no English team engrossing the attention of the public. In the interests of Australian cricket, I sincerely hope that the good sense of the people, and the representatives of the press, who have done so much to make the game what it is to-day, will prevail, and they will gradually but effectually abolish the mischiefs under which cricket at the present day suffers in Australia..

Unfortunately, several journals, misunderstanding our protests, have taken them as condemning Australian crowds and press, rather than as the rebuke of an evil which visitors and local players alike suffer from; so they have, to a certain extent, encouraged the evil. But I feel sure that in time they will recognise their mistake, and will not contend that, because such a thing exists even in England, we have no right to find fault with a similar abuse in this country, where it exists to a much greater extent. Such proceedings, it is true, are seen in England; still I may say I have never witnessed

there such continual "barracking" or such abuse meted out in the press. On "barracking," George Giffen, in his valuable book of reminiscences, has many pithy remarks aptly made as to the abuse of cricketers by the press of this country. My captain's scrap-books, both of the present tour and of the previous one, bear eloquent testimony on the subject. I am fully aware that Australian crowds, as a whole—as our captain said at Melbourne at the farewell banquet accorded us—are very fair to both sides. Why not, then, prevent a few—whether they be hundreds, scores, or tens—from making themselves a nuisance to both players and the spectators?

Still two more causes exist why the team at times was unable to do itself justice. One is the accidents which all visiting teams have to suffer from. No forethought or care can prevent mishaps and accidents during a long and arduous cricket season. From our first match, and in almost every succeeding one, someone or other was the victim of some slight misfortune. I personally gave the team more trouble and worry in this respect than any other member. However, my illness was more than compensated for by the good luck I have had in my play. Stoddart and Druce in the first match, Briggs in the second and third, and later on, Hirst, Hayward, MacLaren, Storer—in fact, the majority of the team were at times indisposed,

either by slight ailments or by injuries. But the greatest misfortune to the team was the rheumatism, which, at times, affected Tom Richardson's right arm. Everyone in Australia is aware of the important part he played in all the games during Stoddart's tour of 1894-5. His comparative failure on this tour was the greatest disappointment to us, and affected our position most seriously.

Lastly, there can be no denying the fact that the team, which came with the unanimous approval of the public and press of England, when we started, and enjoyed the same approval right up to the winning of the First Test, failed to play up to its true English form. Several of the new hands failed undoubtedly to do themselves justice. Several causes which handicapped the players have already been mentioned, but they do not altogether explain why at times such indifferent shows were made by them individually; and one is forced to admit that they were suffering from a loss of form, with which all cricketers at times have to put up. It was rather a misfortune to their side, and in no way their fault, that this should have happened to some of the new hands; yet it was surprising that some of them did not blossom out into their English form until the end of the tour. This was the case with Hayward, Druce, and Wainwright. The same remark applies, although not so apparently, to Hirst and Mason, the latter of whom

came on wonderfully as a bowler, and more than compensated for his slight falling off in batting. I put him down as one of the most useful men on the side. Each one of the men I have mentioned as having failed to come up to expectations, showed excellent form at times. But where the team suffered was, because the members did not play well as an eleven, or as a body. If the team could have depended upon at least four or five batsmen and two bowlers in each match, the result of some of them would have to be chronicled differently. Cricketers of exceptional merit, and well-known authorities on the game, have often endeavoured to find out what is "form" and how it deteriorates, and why it often does not come up to expectations. But although they have been able to ascertain the first two, they have never been satisfactorily able to give a true and reasonable explanation for the latter. Where better men than myself have failed, I am not too proud to acknowledge my own total inability to explain the non-recovery of form of my comrades, who with myself, on our present tour, tried hard and did our best to uphold the best traditions of English cricket—with but imperfect success.

Table showing AGGREGATE OF RUNS made in FIRST-CLASS MATCHES with Stoddart's Team.

BATSMEN.	S.A. Adelaide. October.		Vic. Melbourne. November.		N.S.W. Sydney. November.		1st Test. Sydney. December.		2nd Test. Melbourne. January.		3rd Test. Adelaide. January.		4th Test. Melbourne. February.		5th Test. Sydney. February.		N.S.W. Sydney. February.		Vic. Melbourne. March.		S.A. Adelaide. March.		INDIVIDUAL TOTALS FOR ALL MATCHES.	AVERAGES.
England—																								
Board																								
Briggs																								
Bruce																								
Hayward																								
Hearne																								
Hirst																								
MacLaren																								
Mason																								
Ranjitsinhji																								
Richardson																								
Stoddart																								
Storer																								
Wainwright																								
TOTALS																								
N.S. Wales—																								
Cunningham																								
Donnan																								
Garrett																								
Gregory																								
Howell																								
Iredale																								
Kelly																								
McKenzie																								
McKibbin																								
Newell																								
Noble																								
Pye																								
Trumper																								
TOTALS																								
Victoria—																								
Bruce																								
Giller																								
Graham																								
Harry																								
Johns																								
McLeod																								
M'Michael																								
Roche																								
Trott																								
Trumble																								
Worrall																								
TOTALS																								
S. Australia—																								
Darling																								
Drew																								
Evans																								
Giffen																								
Green																								
Hill																								
Jarvis																								
Jones																								
Lyons																								
McKenzie																								
Reedman																								
TOTALS																								
GRAND TOTALS																								

* Not out. † Average per wicket for English and Australian teams.
English average per wicket, 33·89. Australian average per wicket, 37·9.

Table showing BOWLING AVERAGE in FIRST-CLASS MATCHES with Stoddart's Team.

BOWLERS.	Innings	S.A.		Vic.		N.S.W.		1st Test.		2nd Test.		3rd Test.		4th Test.		5th Test.		N.S.W.		Vict.		S.A.		Grand Total.		Av'ge Runs per Wkt.
		Runs	Wkts	Runs	Wkts	Runs	Wkts	Runs	Wkts	Runs	Wkts	Runs	Wkts	Runs	Wkts	Runs	Wkts	Runs	Wkts	Runs	Wkts	Runs	Wkts	Runs	Wkts	
England—																										
Briggs	1st	95	0					45	1	36	3	129	1	38	1	52	1	98	2					701	13	6[illegible]
	2nd	0	0											21				101	1					1	0	0
Druce	1st																									
Hayward	1st	32	1	31	1	48	1	11	0			30	0	24	0			52	1	14	1			626	14	44
	2nd	36	1	42	1	25	0	16	0	32	1	34	2	29	0	22	1	58	1					1,304	44	29
Hearne	1st																									
	2nd	32	1	38	1	25	1	57	0	32	1	62	1	32	0	22	0	58	1	26	0			690	9	30[illegible]
Hirst	1st																									
	2nd	32	1	38	0	25	1	57	0	32	1	62	1	32	0	22	0	58	1	26	0			690	9	30[illegible]
Mason	1st																									
	2nd							10	0			42	0	10	0			52	1	12	1			520	20	26[illegible]
Ranjitsinhji	1st																									
	2nd																							58	0	0
Richardson	1st	159	3	45	4	105	4	21	3	114	1	104	1	101	3	94	3	98	3	104	2	81	0	1,565	54	28[illegible]
	2nd	80	3	73	3	70	2	22	2							710	4									
Rose	1st											10	1											184	3	34[illegible]
	2nd																									
Storer	1st					55	0					18	0	24	1	13	0			78	4			284	6	47[illegible]
	2nd									58	1			11												
Walsh	1st	36	0	25	0	10	0											48	1	10	0			249	1	249
	2nd			24	0																					
Runs		852	—	540	—	553	—	412	—	510	—	502	—	433	—	407	—	961	—	444	—	520	—	9,195	—	—
Wickets.			14		13		13		13		9		8		12		14		20		13		13		265	23794
N.S. Wales—																										
McKibbin	1st					110	5	115	1	66	2							106	3					824	13	48
	2nd					64	0	12	1	19	0							69	1					79	—	—
Cunningham	1st					46	0																			
	2nd					22	1																	702	33	28[illegible]
Noble	1st					55	3			49	1	28	3	21	1	32	1	55	3					840	32	31[illegible]
	2nd					25	1					20	1	28	1	43	2	46	2							
Howell	1st					15	1											14	1					50	1	50
	2nd					5	0											0	0					36	0	0
Trumper	1st					0	0											0	0					65	0	0
	2nd					0	0											0	0					18	0	0
Newell	1st																									
	2nd																									
Pye	1st																									
	2nd																									
Donnan	1st																									
	2nd																									
Runs						367		105		100		148		144		159		729						2,084		*24.47
Wickets.							12		2		0		7		5		4		20						89	
Victoria—																										
Trumble	1st			80	4			126	1	54	4	39	1	39				125	1	54				676	26	27.04
	2nd							46	0	23	4			46												
Roche	1st			60	1																			180	7	30.71
	2nd																									
Trott	1st			52	3			58	1	19	1	14	0	23										456	13	35.07
	2nd																									
McLeod	1st			17	0			80	3	15	0			11										229	6	38.16
	2nd																									
Bruce	1st			4	0																			4	0	0
Runs				213				330		109		53		159				125		365				1,545		111
Wickets.					0				0		0		1		0				7		11				61	
S. Australia—																										
Jones	1st	189	7					120	3	54	2	67	2	56	2	62	2					156	7	974	43	22.65
	2nd							29	0					29	4											
Evans	1st	60	1																					256	3	7.6
	2nd																									
Green	1st	32	1																					32	1	32
Lyons	1st	50	0																					49	0	0
	2nd																									
Reedman	1st	50	0																					109	0	0
	2nd																									
Jarvis	1st	82	0																					78	0	0
	2nd																									
Runs		442	—					156	—	54	—	67	—	120	—	62	—					156	—	1,470	—	—
Wickets.			9						3		2		3		6		0						16		47	1474
AUSTRALIAN GRAND TOTAL		442	—	213	—	367	—	439	—	443	—	369	—	433	—	491	—	729	—	365	—	496	—	5,065	—	—
			9		0		12		10		20		10		20		20		20		11		16		157	32.19

* New South Wales average per wicket. † Victorian average per wicket. ‡ South Australian average per wicket.
§ English average per wicket. ¶ Australian average per wicket.

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